

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter! It's cool that your favorite color is green. My favorite is yellow but green is my second favorite!



Mew with a big salamander  
My favorite animals are amphibians because they are cute and slimy

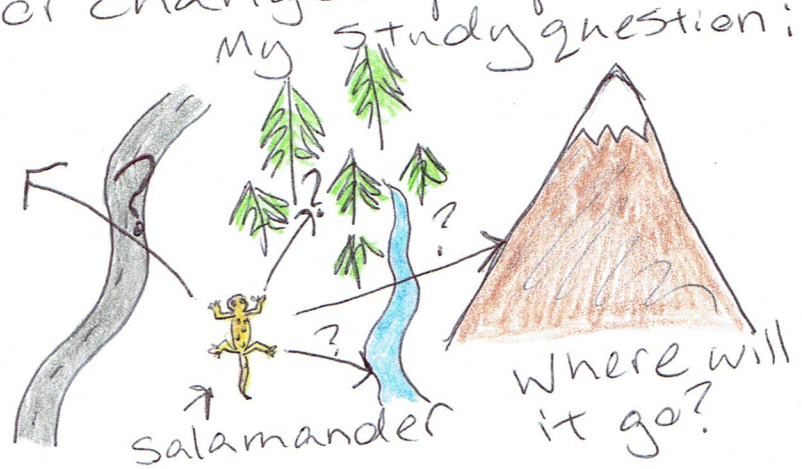
The type of science I do is biology. I study how animals move from one place to the next, and what gets in their way. I love my research because I get to find animals in the wild, do genetics in the lab, and the rest is on a computer.

Figure out how related animals are



Me looking for Salamanders in Washington state where I got my PhD

Instead of doing experiments, I use natural experiments, or changes people make.



This is a torrent salamander.  
They like streams and  
forest



I am a postdoc,  
which means I  
do research and  
teach but I'm  
not a professor  
yet. Most days  
I do research  
and write papers,  
grade papers,

and talk to other biologists. Before  
I went to graduate school <sup>→ (more school after college)</sup> I worked  
at a zoo and a bird conservation  
place. It was really fun but hard  
work! I am 34 years old so I guess  
I became a scientist in college, more  
than 12 years ago. I went to Dartmouth  
College in New Hampshire.

I live in Massachusetts now,  
but I am from Oklahoma and my  
parents still live there. I live with  
my cat, Lucy. My family always  
had pets, and loving animals made  
me want to work with them.  
What is your cat's name? How many  
fish do you have?

Did you like learning about decomposers?  
Have you exploded chemicals in  
science class? I remember my  
6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher putting  
a ballin liquid nitrogen, which is  
really cold, and throwing at the wall  
and it shattering. I don't remember  
him doing any explosions, but it  
was along time ago. Sometimes  
I use liquid nitrogen in the lab  
and I have to be very careful.

I look forward to getting  
your next letter! Hopefully you  
have done some more cool stuff  
in science class that you can  
tell me about.

Sincerely,

P.S. What is your favorite animal?

