

By: Raina Banerjee

## **Water Quality Specialists**

Imagine a world without rivers, lakes, or any natural body of water. Your first thought may be, “Oh, that doesn’t affect me. I would still have the water I get from my tap!” However, what you don’t know is that if natural water ceases to exist, so does tap water. No one would have any water at all! That is what makes it so important to protect every natural water source.

we have. One career that helps save our natural water is a water quality specialist.

Water quality specialists gather samples of water from natural sources. Some of these sources include lakes, springs, rivers, and more. Then, they study and analyze those samples. The results help them ascertain how healthy the natural source is. In other words, water quality specialists analyze natural water samples to make sure the water is high-quality and up to standards.

Water quality specialists are required to get at least one degree in either Chemistry, Earth Science, Biology, or related fields. This is because they need to understand those concepts in order to do their jobs.

A water quality specialist is an extremely important career. For example, natural water will eventually be converted into our drinking water. If the natural water quality is low, our drinking water quality will be low as well. Therefore, water quality specialists help by determining whether the natural water quality is high or low. If the quality is low, water quality specialists will let us know so that we can help before the contamination spreads to our drinking water. As another example, water health affects all of the organisms that depend on it. Water plays a part in the life of practically all organisms, whether they are as small as algae or as big as

deer. Fish swimming in low quality bodies of water could become sick. However, water quality not only affects creatures that live in it, but it also affects the animals that drink from it. Any animal that drinks from a low-quality water source, including humans, could become sick as well. Entire species could go extinct just because of this. This causes all of the animals that depend on that species for food to starve and the area to become overpopulated with all of the animals that were once prey to the extinct species. Therefore, low water quality can unbalance entire ecosystems. That is why water quality specialists are vital to the health of natural water bodies and all of the living things around them.

I would consider becoming a water quality specialist because I want to have a good impact on the environment. Pollution is gradually consuming planet Earth, and water quality specialists help solve that problem by checking our natural bodies of water for contamination. That way, people can help if the water is polluted. Overall, I would consider becoming a water quality specialist because they change the world for the better, one body of water at a time.