

# DARE TO EXPLORE

BY C.M. TOMLIN

Do you have what it takes to be a great explorer? Read the stories of seven famous adventurers, and see how you can get started on the same path.



THE TITANIC, UNDER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN



ROBERT BALLARD

## THE OCEANOGRAPHER

Robert Ballard, on discovering the lost wreckage of the R.M.S. *Titanic*, the cruise ship that collided with an iceberg and sank in 1912:

"My team had been watching the ocean floor with an underwater camera for days—and all we'd seen was mud. Late one evening, our camera suddenly passed over a ship's boiler. There was a picture of the *Titanic*'s boiler hanging on our cabin wall. We all looked up at the picture. Then we looked back at the screen—and at that moment, we knew. It was as if Neptune, the God of the Sea himself, knew we'd been searching for almost two months and finally pulled back the curtain to show us it was right under our noses all along. *Titanic* wasn't gone. It was out there. And we'd found it."

Want to be an oceanographer?

**STUDY:**

Physical sciences such as geology

**WATCH:** *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*

**READ:** *Exploring the Titanic*, by Robert D. Ballard

**DO:** Any kind of team sport, since oceanography is a team effort

**ADVICE:** "You may fail, and you may get knocked down, but you have to get back up."

## THE EXTREME PHOTOGRAPHER

Carsten Peter, on his first face-to-face experience with an erupting volcano:

"When I was 17, a friend and I climbed the Stromboli volcano in Italy to capture its eruptions on film. We set up our cameras on the rim, but we didn't realize that we were too close. Suddenly, an explosion erupted from the volcano. Giant volcanic bombs—flaming rocks up to two feet wide—began spitting into the air. We started running and dodging them, and we were so scared we forgot to turn on the cameras! It frightened me to death, but that was when I realized I had magma in my blood. And that this was what I wanted to do with my life."

Want to be a photographer?

**STUDY:** Anything—then take pictures!

**WATCH:** *Le Peuple Migrateur*

**READ:** NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

**DO:** Learn physical skills—climbing, paragliding, skateboarding—to get you to great places to take photos

**ADVICE:** "With digital cameras, it's easier than ever to become a photographer. But all ways be very self-critical."



MIREYA MAYOR AND A LEOPARD

## THE PRIMATOLOGIST

Mireya Mayor, on making a connection with a family of gorillas:

"When I started observing western lowland gorillas in the Central African Republic, I was an outsider among the apes. But one day, a baby gorilla was irritating his father, a giant silverback, and the two started bickering. As the mother took the baby away for a time-out, she looked over at me as if to say, 'You understand why I have to do this.' These gorillas have been

hunted for centuries, and yet when you look into a gorilla's eyes and see that she accepts you, you realize that you've gone from being an enemy to being a friend."



WESTERN LOWLAND GORILLA MOM AND BABY

Want to be a primatologist?

**STUDY:** Ecology, English, science—even math will help for all the statistics

**WATCH:** *Madagascar, Gorillas in the Mist*

**READ:** *The Aye-Aye and I*, by Gerald Durrell

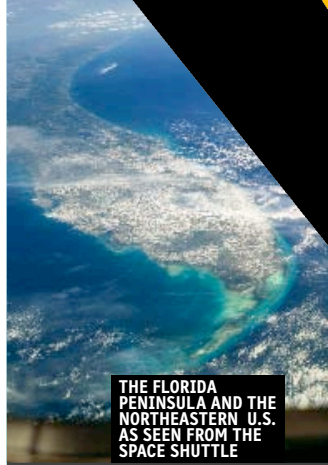
**DO:** Gocamping, hiking, and bird-watching

**ADVICE:** "Become involved and hands-on. Try things like volunteering at animal shelters or your local zoo."



CARSTEN PETER AT AN EXPLODING MOUNT SEMERU IN INDONESIA





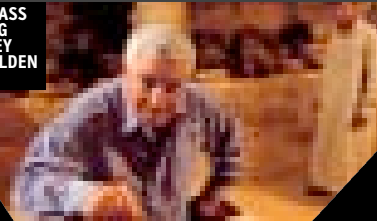
THE FLORIDA PENINSULA AND THE NORTHEASTERN U.S. AS SEEN FROM THE SPACE SHUTTLE

## THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Zahi Hawass, on what it was like to discover Egypt's Valley of the Golden Mummies, an ancient cemetery containing thousands of mummies:

"I entered the first chamber of the tomb and saw 31 mummies, each one covered in gold. My hair went up to the ceiling and my heart began trembling as my eyes gazed at each mummy. I am able to live with the secrets of the pharaohs every day of my life. When you discover something, you are releasing magic into the world. History is dark, but through science we can bring it to life again."

ZAHÍ HAWASS EXPLORING THE VALLEY OF THE GOLDEN MUMMIES



### Want to be an archaeologist?

**STUDY:** Science, geography, history  
**WATCH:** The *Indiana Jones* movie series  
**READ:** *The Curse of the Pharaohs: My Adventures With Mummies*, by Zahi Hawass  
**DO:** Go to museums, and play pharaoh-inspired puzzles and games  
**ADVICE:** "It's not enough to just like something. You have to give it your passion."

## THE ASTRONAUT

Sandra Magnus, astronaut on the space shuttle *Atlantis*, on seeing Earth from space for the first time:

"Locking down on the Earth, everything just looks so peaceful and calm. Down there, billions of people were going to work, going to school, playing soccer. It makes you realize it's just one world, and we're all together on this ball of life. The oceans are so blue, the deserts so flowing. It's a beautiful, fragile planet, and you can see these treasures all at once from space"



SANDRA MAGNUS GETS READY FOR A PRACTICE RUN DRIVING A PERSONNEL CARRIER.

## THE MOUNTAIN CLIMBER

Samantha Larson, the youngest person to climb the tallest mountains on each continent, on reaching the top of Mount Everest, the world's tallest peak:

"During the last stretch before Everest's summit, I began to doubt I would make it. It seemed to take forever. When I finally reached the top, I was exhausted. I used any extra energy I had to hold back tears of awe and disbelief. I was standing on top of the world! A guide asked me if it was worth the view, but it was such a blur that I didn't know the answer. Whenever I think of my time up there, I realize that it definitely was."

SAMANTHA LARSON, WARM INSIDE A TENT



### Want to climb mountains?

**STUDY:** Geography, geology, biology  
**WATCH:** *Kilimanjaro: To the Roof of Africa*  
**READ:** *Within Reach: My Everest Story*, by Mark Pfitzer and Jack Galvin  
**DO:** Anything outdoorsy: hiking, camping, skiing  
**ADVICE:** "Push your limits to discover what you're able to do."

## THE PALEONTOLOGIST

Sue Hendrickson, on discovering the most complete skeleton of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* (named Sue, after the explorer) ever recorded:

"My team had spent two weeks in South Dakota searching a large area, but there was one area I still wanted to check out. On our last day, everyone went into town, but I explored the area we'd missed. My dog and I wandered through the dense fog for miles. Then, about eight feet up a cliff, I saw six *T. rex* bones sticking out. It was like hitting the lottery 50 million times! Sue had been there all along, calling and calling, wanting me to find her."

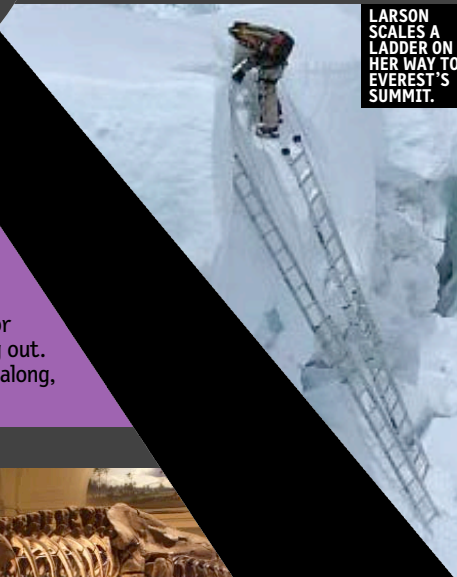
### Want to be a paleontologist?

**STUDY:** Natural sciences such as biology, and art to train the eye  
**WATCH:** *Jurassic Park*  
**READ:** *Bones Rock! Everything You Need to Know to Be a Paleontologist*, by Peter Larson and Kristin Donman  
**DO:** Modelmaking to practice applying glue, handling small brushes, etc.  
**ADVICE:** "Never give up, and be afraid of nothing."



SUE THE DINOSAUR, SUE HENDRICKSON, AND SKYWALKER THE DOG

LARSON SCALES A LADDER ON HER WAY TO EVEREST'S SUMMIT.



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