



## **Go Beyond: Journal Activity**

### **How did you end up where you are today? Kiehl, Wei, and DeConto**

*In your science journal, record your thoughts and research on the following topic.*

Not all scientists begin their careers in the same field they end up in. Find a scientist in your community and interview him or her about where he or she began working and what the scientist does today.

1. Choose someone whose job is interesting to you.
2. Write down or sketch what you think their job is like.

Scientists work in many different places. Here are a few examples:

- Schools
  - Environmental Consulting or Engineering Companies
  - Industry (such as chemical production)
  - Research Facilities (use the Internet to search words that interest you such as: medical research, atmospheric research, ect.)
  - Non-profits
  - National Parks
  - Government Offices (EPA, public health, city municipalities)
  - Water Treatment Plants.
3. Brainstorm and jot down some questions that you would like to ask.  
Sample questions:
    - What does your job today look like on a day-to-day basis?
    - Why did you choose this field of work?
    - Have you always wanted to do this type of work?
    - What did you want your adult job to be when you were 7 years old?
    - What was your first degree in?
  4. Contact the scientist you have selected by phone or email and set up an interview.
  5. Conduct your interview and record the answers to your questions.
  6. Reflect: what did you learn about the scientist or his/her job that most surprised you?
  7. Optional (for teachers): Have your students write a profile of the person they interviewed. Encourage them to include details about how the person feels about what he/she does and how he/she looked, spoke, and acted.