

Gemini

Canis Minor

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# Research Institute

#### Research Institute

As a geoscientist and an Adult Fan of LEGO<sup>®</sup>, it was natural that Alatariel (Ellen Kooijman) was inspired to combine her two passions to create a LEGO set depicting women in science.

'I was surfing the Web one day and stumbled upon LEGO Cuusoo. I was immediately enthusiastic about the concept and saw it as a great opportunity to increase the overall number of female LEGO figures and to make them more interesting as characters."

"As a geoscientist, I started with designs close to my own profession and then expanded them to include others such as a robotics engineer and a falconer. It was clear from the large number of comments I received that the science-based figures were most popular, which is why the final set ended up containing a paleontologist, an astronomer and a chemist." 'The motto of these three scientists is clear: explore the world and beyond! The astronomer discovers new stars and planets with her telescope, the paleontologist studies the origin of the dinosaurs, and the chemist does experiments in the laboratory. I hope that they show that girls can become anything they want."

"I think the three vignettes also present an interesting LEGO building experience. Each one comes with a 6x6 base plate and a corresponding setting to stimulate creativity. The set also includes lots of accessories, such as bottles, tools, bones, etc. The dinosaur skeleton especially turned out to be a real winner! It has become hugely popular with a variety of people ranging from teenage boys to fellow adult LEGO fans."





## The Paleontologist

Paleontology is the study of the record of life on Earth left as fossils. More than 99 percent of all species that have ever lived are extinct, so there are a lot of fossils out there to be studied!

Paleontologists attempt to work out the relationships between extinct animals and plants and their relatives that still live in the world around us. They try to reconstruct early environments to understand the changes that have occurred.

Most paleontologists work at universities and museums, and spend a lot of time in the field collecting the fossils that they study. Paleontology combines both biology and geology, and paleontologists often have a broad scientific training.



### The Astronomer

Astronomers study planets, stars, solar systems, and galaxies in an attempt to find out how the universe works. They examine the evolution of stars to better understand how our own star, the sun, and our solar system of planets were created and what will happen to them as they age.

As our galaxy, the Milky Way, consists of 400 billion stars, astronomers rely heavily on their observation skills and use physics, chemistry, and mathematics to decipher the images they see through powerful telescopes.

While the first astronomers often stayed awake at night studying the skies, modern astronomers work at colleges and universities, and spend most of their time analyzing data or making advanced computer models.



## The Chemist

Everything in this world is made up of chemicals – including us! Chemists study chemical elements all the way back to their smallest form as tiny atoms in an attempt to understand what they are made of and how they react when they come together with other substances.

While some chemists work in laboratories with hands-on experiments, analyzing all kinds of substances, others work on a theoretical level and use mathematics and computers to model complex chemical systems.

Among other things, chemists help design new medicines to cure disease, or discover new substances and processes that could solve the world's energy crisis.





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