

A Scientist just like me



Graeme Wilding
Food Safety Technologist



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Hi there! I am Graeme Wilding— A food safety



Where do I work?

I work at a company called American Sugar Refining. They own sugar mills and other sugar related factories like the Tate & Lyle Silvertown sugar refinery and the Lyles golden syrup factory in London.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I really liked science and maths, as well as technical drawing. I loved anything that I had to go and investigate.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I like investigating the museums and national parks whenever I am travelling. I also love swimming, especially in open water (outdoors).

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What do I do as a food safety technologist?

I make sure that food made in our factories is safe and nutritious. This includes making sure the sugar and rice farms are growing things safely without chemicals. I check the refining process works correctly to get pure sugar - our magnets, sieves, metal detectors and X-rays use the latest science to help us make the food as safe as possible.



How does what I do make the world a better place?

Everyone should have access to safe, nutritious food, and that is part of what I do. My work helps to reduce waste, energy usage and water usage to make sure we have a positive effect on the environment and community around our factories.

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What I like about my job

I travel to some fantastic places and see the sugar in the cane fields, going through the mills and refineries and being made into final products like hot chocolate. I like seeing all the research and science used in the factories and how this helps to make better quality products often with less money and less waste.

Challenges I have faced

I am quite shy and quiet, but part of my job is leading lots of training, presentations and conferences. I have learned to take quiet time and “charge up my batteries” so that I can be full of energy and really be good at these things.



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If you want to be a food safety technologist, you need:

- ✱ to be **really curious** and asks lots of questions
- ✱ **to have a real interest in food** – not just what it tastes like but also how it's made and what the ingredients and additives do
- ✱ to be **interested** in cooking with big equipment and machines
- ✱ **to be very practical** – not afraid to get covered in sugar!



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a food safety technologist like Graeme Wilding?

Why? Why not?



- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a food safety technologist?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

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Graeme Wilding is a STEM ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

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