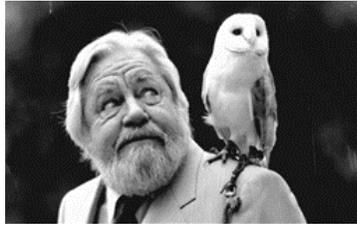


Gerald Durrell.

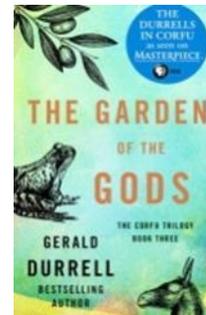
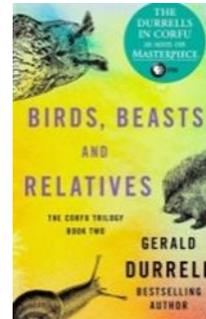
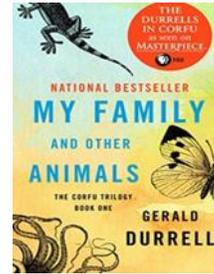
Gerald Malcolm Durrell, **OBE** was a British **naturalist**, zookeeper, **conservationist**, author, and television presenter. He was born in 1925, in **India** and died in 1995 in **Jersey**.



Gerald Durrell was the first person to say that zoos should focus on the **preservation** of **endangered species**. He believed that in a zoo the animals came first and the paying public second.

He **founded** the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and the Jersey Zoo on the Channel Island of Jersey in 1959. This organisation has become the centre of **expertise** of breeding **endangered species** and their current aim is to breed and then 're-wild' endangered species. Visit www.durrell.org to find out more.

'I do assure you, the world needs Durrell.' –Sir David Attenborough



Durrell's childhood was an unusual one. Following the death of his father his mother decided to move the family, which **consisted** of herself, Gerald, his older sister Margo and his older brothers Lesley and Larry, away from Bournemouth to the Greek island of Corfu. She hoped to find a more affordable lifestyle, a warmer **climate** and wanted her children to find happiness.

In Corfu Gerald had the freedom to explore and spent his days studying animals, insects and birds. He quickly became passionate about the need for humans to understand, respect and preserve all living creatures. Gerald's family has often been described as **eccentric** and they hosted many creative, artistic and entertaining people when they opened their home as a guesthouse in order to make money.

As an adult Gerald initially struggled to find the money to pay for the land for his zoo, but his family encouraged him to raise the money through writing. His best loved and most famous books are a **trilogy** about his time in Corfu. The books were an instant hit and provided an income to support the development of the zoo in Jersey and eventually the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust.

The recent TV series **'The Durrells'** is based on these books.



Why do you think the 'd' in the Durrell logo is a dodo?

Gerald Durrell - vocabulary

1. OBE _____
2. naturalist _____
3. conservationist _____
4. Jersey _____
5. preservation _____
6. endangered _____
7. species _____
8. founded _____
9. expertise _____
10. consisted _____
11. climate _____
12. eccentric _____
13. trilogy _____



What else would I like to know?
