MUSIC

TI: Did you know there’s a scientific field devoted to the study of animal behavior? It’s called ethology. If I had to study one creature in the wild, it would be…the lemur! There are over 88 species of lemur and they all come from one place … the island Madagascar. So what about you two?

FLASH: Hmm, that’s a tough one, but I would have to say…red panda. They’re adorable, have red hair, and live in Southeast Asia, which could be a cool place to visit. Did you know travel agent is a great career to consider? They can help us plan our trip.

CHARLEY: I would study humans and the way they think. Cognitive psychologists study the human mind, especially attention span, memory, and creativity.

(A friendly CHIRPING sound, followed by an announcement - woman’s voice)

Attention. Attention. The Office of the Alphabet is calling with an urgent career request. Please stand by.

TI: That sounds like a great career, Charley, but you still owe me a real answer.

CHARLEY: Maybe after our next assignment. C! Cheers!

FLASH: There are a lot of great careers that start with the letter C!

CHARLEY: Carpenter.

FLASH: Construction manager?

TI: Cowboy! Maybe someone who can show us how to lasso a lemur!

CHARLEY: Computer programmer.

TI: Oh, don’t they speak in code?

FLASH: No, Ti. They use computer language to write code and create all kinds of useful software. To learn more, we’re going to talk to Natasia Malaihollo who is a computer programmer.

TI: Hi, Natasia!

NATASIA MALAIHOLLO: Hello, Lab Squad!

CHARLEY: Can you tell us what computer programmers do?

NATASIA MALAIHOLLO: Computer programmers write code. Code are sentences that make computers, smart phones, and tablets work. So they are basically a language that allows computers to tell another computer what to do. I write code myself. But lately, I supervise engineers who write a lot more code faster than I can. And they create surveys that look like games.

FLASH: Where are some places that a computer programmer might work?

NATASIA MALAIHOLLO: Computer programmers can work anywhere that there is a computer in that location. So the library, schools, grocery stores, even Disneyland.

TI: Natasia, can you write a computer program that will help me keep my room clean?

NATASIA MALAIHOLLO: Yes! I can write a program to help create robots to help you clean your room. I’ve written programs before that are games that are things to help you color, things to help you organize your homework, things to even help you schedule your time.

CHARLEY: What’s your favorite part about being a computer programmer?

NATASIA MALAIHOLLO: My favorite part of the job is getting to travel and visit new cities, new places. Try different cultures out. You know, taste different foods. Really just being able to travel all over the world.

TI: Thanks for talking to us today, Natasia!

NATASIA MALAIHOLLO: Thanks for giving me a chance to tell you about my work as a computer programmer. Good luck in the Career Lab!

TI: So computer programmers actually create the software that we use every day. This is definitely an in-demand career!

FLASH: It is! And now we have to get the word out online about this cool career!

TI: Speaking of sharing, Charley, did you ever decide what animal you would study?

CHARLEY: I would study the okapi. You can find them in the tropical rain forest in the Congo.

TI: Hmm. I wonder what route we’d have to take if we decided to see the okapi for ourselves in the wild?

FLASH: I think we need a travel agent to help us figure this one out!

CHARLEY: Or maybe Natasia can write an app for that!

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