The Quest for Knowledge

Humans have always had a thirst for knowledge – whether it be to improve their lives and circumstances or out of sheer curiosity and the urge to get to the bottom of things. Without scientific discoveries, humanity would not have evolved at such a rapid pace. Life as we know it today would be unthinkable without the knowledge we gain through science and scholarship. Innovations and new insights are integrated into our lives in ever quicker succession. We watch scientists, engineers and inventors as they look for ways to increase human knowledge. These fascinating films accompany them in their Quest for Knowledge.

44 The Silent Demise of a Species
Around a third of the world’s 5,000 species of amphibian are endangered. Scientists only have a limited understanding of why this might be the case. In Cameroon, two German tropical marine ecologists have spent years conducting research into around 100 indigenous species of frog.

49 Eco-Friendly Chemistry
Almost 90 percent of all chemical industry products are derived from mineral oil. But what will happen when oil reserves run out? Since the early 1980s, the German chemist and entrepreneur Hermann Fischer has focused his attention on the potential of plants. His research has shown that the resins, oils, starches and pigments in plants can replace all petrochemical products.

64 Medicine of the Apes – The Jungle Pharmacy
Animals tend to eat particular plants when they are ill. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a German biologist has analyzed what bonobos choose to eat. Her findings are of interest to the pharmaceuticals industry, as these plants could yield substances with which to create new drugs. But the bonobos are a species under threat, and what we can learn from them might soon be lost forever.