

What is a Fossil?



A fossil is a special rock that holds the remains of creatures that lived millions of years ago.

Timeline

May 21st
1799

Mary Anning is born in Lyme Regis, Dorset.



November
1810

Mary's father dies.



1811

Shortly after their father's death, Mary and her brother Joseph discover the full Ichthyosaur skeleton.



1823

Mary finds the complete skeleton of a Plesiosaurus.



1824

Mary realises that coprolites are actually fossilised poo! This can be studied to help us understand the diet of ancient creatures.



1828

Mary finds the Pterodactylus remains.



1826

Mary opens her shop, known as Anning's Fossil Depot.



March 9th
1847

Mary dies aged 47.

1850

A stained glass window dedicated to Mary Anning is unveiled in St Michael's Church in Lyme Regis, which is the church she attended and also where she is buried.



KS1 History Knowledge Organiser

The life of a significant individual in the past

Mary Anning

Date of birth: May 21, 1799

Date of death: March 9, 1847

This is Mary Anning.



Who was Mary Anning?

- She was famous for finding **fossils**.
- She lived by the sea in the town of **Lyme Regis** in Dorset.
- Mary was the first person to find a whole **Ichthyosaur skeleton**.
- You can see this at the **Natural History Museum** in London.
- Mary found many more ancient creatures in her life, including a long-necked sea reptile called a **plesiosaur** and a flying reptile called a **Dimorphodon**.

What did Mary Anning do?

- Mary Anning was born in May 1799.
- Her father was a **cabinet maker** who sold fossils to tourists. He died when Mary was 10.
- When Mary was 12, her brother Joseph dug up the skull of a **ichthyosaur** (which means 'fish lizard').
- The skull was more than a metre long.
- Later, Mary found the rest of the **skeleton**. She sold it for £23 (around £1,400 today).



What did Mary Anning do?

- Mary would spend her time searching the beach looking for what she called '**curiosities**'. Later in her life, she realised they were actually **fossils**.
- When Mary was 27, she opened her own shop. It was called **Anning's Fossil Depot**.
- She worked with geologists (people who study the earth).
- Mary was not allowed to join groups of scientists because she was a woman. Her name was missed out of **books**.
- She changed the way we think about the **history of the earth**.

Interesting Fact

Her work influenced the way of scientific thinking about the history of the Earth and prehistoric life.

Mary made many other exciting discoveries, such as a flying reptile, later named the **Pterodactyl**, and **coprolites** - fossilised poo - which helped her work out what dinosaurs ate! Having taught herself **geology, anatomy** and **scientific illustration**, Mary was so highly skilled that she took **important scientists** fossil hunting and discussed ideas and **theories** with them.

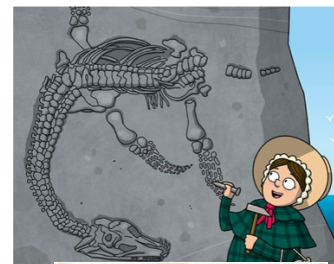
What is palaeontology?

Palaeontology is the study of plants and animals that lived millions of years ago. Scientists called palaeontologists study the remains of these **ancient organisms**, or living things. The remains, called **fossils**, were preserved in rocks.

Palaeontologists look for fossils all over the world. They use special tools to carefully remove fossils from the surrounding rock. They note exactly where the fossils were found. This helps them figure out how old the fossils are.

After their father's death in 1810, Mary and Joseph carried on fossil hunting, to support the family. In 1811, when Mary was 12, they uncovered a strange **5.2-metre-long skeleton!** At the time, people believed that any unrecognisable creatures must have travelled from far-off lands, so scientists simply thought it belonged to a **crocodile**. Eventually, though, they realised it was an **ancient species**, and it was named **Ichthyosaurus** - meaning 'fish lizard'.

Read about the school girl from Lyme Regis who's campaigning for a statue of her hero, Mary Anning!



Key Vocabulary

Mary Anning - Palaeontologist



Why was she significant?

Mary Anning is significant because she found the first fossils of prehistoric animals. She rarely travelled, as people would always come to her, to see the fossils she had found. Mary Anning found fossils in the Jurassic marine fossil beds on the English Channel at Lyme Regis.

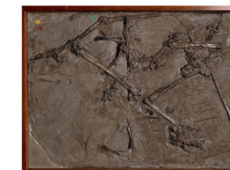
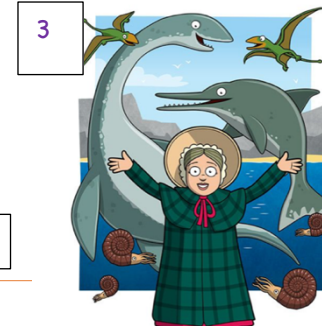


Mary's Famous Fossil Finds

Mary's father didn't earn much in his job as a **cabinet maker**, so he boosted the family's earnings by looking for **fossils** (known as '**curiosities**' back then) at the beach and selling them to holidaymakers. Young Mary and Joseph would join him, and they developed a deep love of **fossil-hunting**.



Mary continued to scour the beach and crumbling cliffs of Lyme Regis with her dog **Trey**, and in 1823 she made another important discovery - the first ever **Plesiosaur skeleton!** This long-necked sea creature (above) looked so odd that many people thought it was **fake** at first!



Mary's first plesiosaur

Reception History Knowledge Organiser

The life of a significant individual in the past - Mary Anning

Key Vocabulary

Mary Anning - Palaeontologist



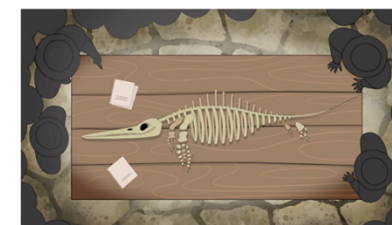
Rocks Plesiosaur Mary Anning Science Pterosaur Extinct Pre-Historic



Fossil Dinosaur Jurassic Coast Lyme Regis Ichthyosaur Skeleton

What did Mary Anning do?

- Mary Anning was born in May 1799.
- Her father was a **cabinet maker** who sold fossils to tourists. He died when Mary was 10.
- When Mary was 12, her brother Joseph dug up the skull of a **ichthyosaurus** (which means 'fish lizard').
- The skull was more than a metre long.
- Later, Mary found the rest of the **skeleton**. She sold it for £23 (around £1,400 today).



- Mary would spend her time searching the beach looking for what she called 'curiosities'. Later in her life, she realised they were actually **fossils**.
- When Mary was 27, she opened her own shop. It was called **Anning's Fossil Depot**.
- She worked with geologists (people who study the earth).
- Mary was not allowed to join groups of scientists because she was a woman. Her name was missed out of **books**.
- She changed the way we think about the **history of the earth**.

November
1810



Mary's father dies.

1823

Mary finds the complete skeleton of a Plesiosaurus.



1826

Mary opens her shop, known as Anning's Fossil Depot.



March 9th
1847

Mary dies aged 47.



May 21st
1799

Mary Anning is born in Lyme Regis, Dorset.



1811

Shortly after their father's death, Mary and her brother Joseph discover the full Ichthyosaurus skeleton.



1824

Mary realises that coprolites are actually fossilised poo! This can be studied to help us understand the diet of ancient creatures.



1828

Mary finds the Pterodactylus remains.



1850

A stained glass window dedicated to Mary Anning is unveiled in St Michael's Church in Lyme Regis, which is the church she attended and also where she is buried.

What is a Fossil?



A fossil is a special rock that holds the remains of creatures that lived millions of years ago.

Why was she significant?



Mary Anning is significant because she found the first fossils of prehistoric animals. She rarely travelled, as people would always come to her, to see the fossils she had found. Mary Anning found fossils in the Jurassic marine fossil beds on the English Channel at Lyme Regis.

Who was Mary Anning?

This is Mary Anning.



- She was famous for finding **fossils**.
- She lived by the sea in the town of **Lyme Regis** in Dorset.
- Mary was the first person to find a whole **Ichthyosaurus skeleton**.
- You can see this at the **Natural History Museum** in London.
- Mary found many more ancient creatures in her life, including a long-necked sea reptile called a **plesiosaur** and a flying reptile called a **Dimorphodon**.