

MARY ANNING

FACT FILE



21 May 1799 – 9 March 1847

Mary Anning was born in 1799 in Lyme Regis, England. Lyme Regis is part of a stretch of coastline known as the Jurassic Coast which is famous for fossils. Mary and her father collected and sold shells and fossils to tourists to supplement their income. At the time nobody really knew what the fossils were. Mary was curious about the fossils she found. She sketched and made notes of her discoveries and became an expert in prehistoric creatures.



In 1811, Mary discovered an complete Ichthyosaurus.

In 1823 she she discovered the first complete Plesiosaurus.

In 1824 Mary realised that bezoar stones were fossilised dinosaur poo.

Mary opened a shop called, Annings Fossil Depot in 1826. At the time it was unusual for women to have a business.

In 1828, Mary discovered a pterosaur.

Mary faced many difficulties and obstacles in her life and career. She was from a poor family with no formal education which meant she couldnt join scientific societies, or attend university lectures and she wasn't always fully credited for her findings.

Mary sadly died of breast cancer in 1847, age 47.

In 2022 a statue of Mary Anning was unveiled in Lyme Regis to celebrate the achievements of this remarkable woman.

MAKE AN AMMONITE

Ammonites were sea creatures that lived before and at the same time as dinosaurs. They were a bit like a modern-day squid or octopus with a shell. Ammonite fossils have been found all over the world.

You'll need:

Air drying clay

Clay tool

Instructions

Roll the clay into a long sausage shape and coil up like the shell of a snail.

Use a clay tool to make marks along the spiral.

Leave to dry.

