Mary Anning: Fossil hunter

Have you ever searched the beach for fossils in the rocks? Have you ever wondered, who was the first person to find a full fossil?

Well prepare to find out!

Early Life

Mary Anning was born in England in 1799. She was born I a small town named Lyme Regis in Dorset, which is in the south of England. She lived with her mother, father and brother. Her Father was a carpenter, who liked to collect rocks and sell them on the beach for a bit of extra money.

Fun Fact!

When she was a baby, Mary Anning was struck by lightning. The three nurses with her died, but she survived!

Fossil Hunting



One of Mary's 'curiosities' – this is an ammonite fossil.

When Mary Anning was a little girl, she used to go searching for rocks on the beach with her father and brother. One day, she found something fully in a rock. She asked her dad, and he told her it was a 'curiosity'. This was the first time Mary saw a fossil, and she was so excited, she began to go out every day to search for fossils. She was bullied by the other children in town. They all laughed and called her 'stone girl, bone girl'.

The Sea monster!

When mary was 11, her farther died. Mary began selling her fossils, just like her father had done. One day, her and her dog were out looking for fossils when her dog ran up a cliff and started barking loudly. She followed him and discovered that he had found the skull of a huge sea monster, burried under te eart. She began digging and found the rest of the fossil. She ran down the beach to get other people, to help her carry the fossil, and the town cheered.



The sea monster that Mary found, now displayed in the natural history museum

Being a woman

Although Mary Anning knew lots about fossils, she was a woman, and in the 1800's, women were not allowed to be scientists. Because of this, Mary Anning's findings were all written about by other make scientists. She did nmanage to work alongside some of the men though, which meant she could cary on finding fossils for the rest of her life.