

Rocks: Mary Anning

Aim: Identifying changes related to simple scientific ideas in the context of theories about fossils. I can explain Mary Anning's contribution to palaeontology.	Success Criteria: I can explain what a palaeontologist does. I can understand why Mary Anning's fossil findings were important. I can describe how palaeontology has changed our understanding of prehistoric animals.	Resources: Lesson Pack BBC video clip
	Key/New Words: Mary Anning, fossils, ichthyosaur, trace fossils, coprolite, dinosaurs, Jurassic, Lyme Regis, seaside, beach, poverty, scientists, William Buckland.	Preparation: Palaeontology Reading Comprehension - 1 per child

Prior Learning: Children will have learnt about different types of fossils in lesson 3.

Learning Sequence

	Palaeontology and Palaeontologists: Children learn how to pronounce the words palaeontology and palaeontologist. <i>What could a palaeontologist be? What would a palaeontologist do? Use your previous learning in this unit to help you work it out.</i> Children discuss with talk partner and feedback.	
	History of Ideas About Fossils: Read information relating to ideas about fossils in ancient times. Georges Cuvier – The Breakthrough: Explain how Cuvier proved extinction as fact and the link between Cuvier and Mary Anning.	
	Types of Fossils: Children recap and feedback on the main types of fossils. Mary Anning: Show children the video of Mary Anning's life and her fossil find. Children focus on the types of fossils she found e.g. body fossils. Children discuss the questions on the Lesson Presentation as a whole class.	
	Mary Anning and Palaeontology: Read the information on the Lesson Presentation relating to Mary Anning's contribution to the field of palaeontology.	
	Palaeontology: Children read and answer questions about modern day palaeontology using the differentiated Palaeontology Reading Comprehension .	
	Palaeontologist: Would you like to be a palaeontologist? Why? Why not? Children feedback based on the main activity.	

Taskit

- Diaryit:** Children write a diary entry of a day in the life of Mary Anning using the differentiated [Mary Anning Diary Entry Activity Sheets](#) and the [Mary Anning Palaeontologist Word Mat](#) for support, if required.
- Modelit:** Children create a model of one of the fossils that Mary Anning found.
- Filmit:** Children create a film recreating Mary Anning's famous ichthyosaur fossil find.
- Visitorit:** Arrange a visit from a palaeontologist to explain current ideas in the field of palaeontology.