

A Gíggle and a Roar

Mary Anning's DÍno
Adventures



A Giggle and a Roar: Mary Anning's Dino Adventures

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Amazing Woman

Ever wondered which women in history have done something **AMAZING?** Well, I have! The amazing and inspirational Mary Anning.

Mary Anning was born on the 9th March 1799 in Lyme Regis in Dorset, that's in the UK.

Mary's parents were poor and had **TEN** children. Sadly, Mary and her brother Joseph were the only children to survive and live to adulthood, which is very sad indeed.



It's said that Mary had a very lucky escape. **WOWY!** The lady who held Mary got struck by a beam of lightening. Miraculously, (mi-ra-cu-lus-lee) little Mary survived. **PHEW!** Two other adults next to her also got struck by the horrible lightening bolt. None of the adults were as fortunate as Mary and they passed away.



Mary's father didn't earn a lot of money as a cabinet maker. **That must have been hard!** Eventually he decided to upgrade the whole family's earnings by finding fossils (which were known as curiosities) back then. He found them at the beach and sold them to holiday makers.

Young Mary and Joseph would always join him, they developed a deep, deep, **DEEP** love of fossil hunting.

After their father's death in 1880, Mary and Joseph carried on fossil hunting so they could continue supporting the family.

When Mary was 12, she discovered an unusual 5.2 metre long skeleton. *That was more lucky than getting a day off school.*

At that time, people believed that any unrecognisable (**un-rec-ig-nize-abul**) creatures must have travelled from far off lands, so scientists simply thought it belonged to an ancient species. **Almost as ancient as my grandma!**



It was believed to be from the crocodile family. Then, they realised it was an Ichthyosaurus. (**ic-thee-o-saw-us**)

Mary then continued to scour the whole beach and crumbling cliffs of Lyne Regis with her dog, Tray. In 1823 she made another important find, a long-necked sea creatures which, above water would have been so **ODD**. Many many people in later years believed they saw something that looked like Mary's find, the plesiosaur.

A lot of "photographs" have been shown over the years of what is now the infamous **Loch Ness Monster** or *Nessie* for short.

But plesiosaur couldn't hold it's head out of water and there really isn't anything else *Nessie* could be, so I think *Nessie* isn't real.

Plesiosaur?



In 1884, Mary became the first honorary member of the Dorset County Museum. In her lifetime she had not been taken seriously as a scientist because she was a woman. Her name was missed out of books and she was not a member of the Geological Society which, is why she said "*The world has used me so unkindly. I fear it has made me suspicious of everyone*".

At the age of 27, Mary opened a shop called **Anning's Fossil Depot**.

Due to Mary becoming a local celebrity, people travelled on their holidays to visit the beaches of Dorset and Mary's shop. Some say the song, She sells sea shells is about Mary.

The Ichthyosaur that Mary discovered was not the first to be discovered in the world, it was though the 1st one to be known by scientists in London. They studied it and had access to it. The Natural History Museum in London displays Mary's find. Poor Mary had none of her finds credited to her in any other Museum.

BUT...

Mary was an influential woman, who inspired and still inspires people to this day.

She inspired Charles Darwin and it's possible her discoveries could have helped him develop his **THEORY OF EVOLUTION.**

Mary made many other finds like, flying reptiles such as pterodactyl and coprolite (**Dino poo**). The coprolite helped her to see what the dinosaurs ate.



Having taught herself geology, anatomy and other scientific knowledge, Mary became very highly skilled. In fact she took many important scientists fossil hunting and discussed ideas and theories with them.

In 1847, only one year after being made an honorary member of the Dorset County Museum, Mary sadly died of cancer.

Finally, in 2010 she was recognised by the Royal Society as one of the top ten influential women scientists in the whole of Britain.

In 2014 there was a new species of Ichthyosaur discovered. The Ichthyosaurus Anníngea was named after Mary.



*She sells sea-shells on the sea-shore.
The shells she sells are sea-shells I'm sure.
For if she sells sea-shells on the sea-shore.
Then I'm sure she sells sea-shore shells.*

About the author

Alice is an 8 year old primary school girl who was born in Sunderland, UK.

She has a twin sister, Phoebe and 3 older sisters, Charlotte, Sophie and Florence.

Her passions in life are History, writing, drawing and dinosaurs 🦖.

Alice hopes to be an author when she grows up and wants to write many more books about influential people throughout history.



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Come have a prehysterical time with Mary
Anning and learn about all things dino.

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creatures. This read will blow your socks off.

A DINORIFFIC BOOK FOR CHILDREN

