



Mary Anning

Mary Anning was a famous **fossil** hunter. She was born on 21st May 1799 in Lyme Regis, Dorset.

Did You Know...?

Mary's family were poor and she sold the fossils she found for a penny each.

Early Life

As a child, Mary's father took her and her brother to the beach every day. They spent hours looking for fossils.

He taught her how to get the fossils out of the rock by carefully chipping the rock away from the fossil using a hammer and **chisel**.

New Discoveries

Mary met a fossil expert called Elizabeth Philpot. She became even more interested in fossil hunting. Mary sketched and studied the fossils. She went on to make many amazing discoveries, which included the first complete fossils of:

- an ichthyosaur
- a plesiosaur
- a pterosaur



Later Life

People travelled from all over the country to see Mary's discoveries.

She opened a small shop and sold fossils, stones and shells.

She died in 1847 but is remembered as one of the greatest fossil hunters ever.

Glossary

chisel: A hand tool with a long blade.

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

