

# History (Y3) – Coasts

## Significant individuals – Mary Anning

### Prior Knowledge

- Dinosaurs lived a long time ago (Rec)
- People from the past have an impact today (Y1)
- People were treated differently in the past because of gender, race or religion (Y2, Autumn Term)

### Key Knowledge

- Mary Anning was a famous fossil hunter who was born in Lyme Regis, Dorset in 1799
- At 15 months old, Mary Anning was struck by a lightning bolt.
- Her father taught her how to remove fossils using a hammer and a chisel.
- Mary's family were poor and she sold many of the fossils she found for a penny each.
- She made her first major fossil discovery of the skull of an Ichthyosaurus in 1811 at the age of 12. This changed our understanding of the history of the earth.
- At the time, Science was male-dominated, therefore Mary was not allowed to join science groups and her name was missed out of books.
- Mary Anning died in 1847 aged 47.

#### Legacy:

- The fossil Mary discovered in 1811, which had implications on how scientists understood the history of the world, is now displayed in the Natural History Museum along with many others. Her fossils continue to captivate visitors from around the world.

Mary Anning is born in Lyme Regis 21<sup>st</sup> May 1799.

1810 Mary's father dies and she sells fossils to raise money for her family.

1811 Mary makes her first major fossil discovery. She is 12 years old.

1823 Mary discovers the skeleton of a plesiosaur. She sells it for £100.

1826 Mary opens 'Anning's Fossil Depot'

1828 Mary discovers her first Pterydactylus.

1847 Mary Anning dies aged 47.

Peace

Beauty

Transformation

Wonder

Growth



*“She sells seashells  
by the seashore.”*

### Key Vocabulary

#### Fossil

The remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved in petrified form.

#### Chisel

A long-bladed hand tool with a beveled cutting edge and a handle which is struck with a hammer or mallet, used to cut or shape wood, stone, or metal.

#### Ichthyosaurus

A large extinct marine reptile.

#### Dorset

A county of South-Western England.

#### Pterosaur

An extinct flying reptile.

*What can we learn from Mary Anning?*