

THE JURASSIC COAST

Test C - Year 5

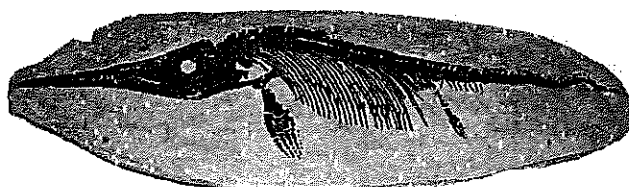


Mary Anning was born in 1799 and raised in Lyme Regis in Dorset. She had no scientific training, but her special collection of fossils was of particular interest to scientists. For, at the time, very little was known about prehistoric animals.

Her parents were so poor, of the nine children they had, only two survived – Mary and her brother, Joseph. When she was eleven, her father died falling off a cliff, which made it even more important that Mary should find interesting pebbles and shells that visitors to the seaside might buy as souvenirs.

Although she was too poor to go to school, she was able to read and write, and was able to read about geology (how rocks are formed) and anatomy (how bodies work). She also drew many of the fossils she started to find on the beach. In prehistoric times, approximately 200 million years ago, Dorset was underneath the sea. As a result, there are many fossilised bones of creatures embedded in the rock and clay of the cliffs.

One day, when she and Joseph were searching for fossils, they discovered part of a crocodile-like skull sticking out of the rock. Carefully chipping away at the rock, they revealed the first complete skeleton of an ichthyosaurus. The word means *fish-lizard*.

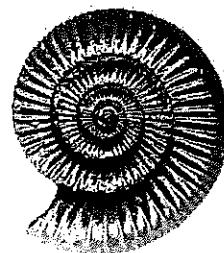


This created great excitement among scientists. Consequently, she became something of a celebrity. Professors of science wrote her letters and sent money to help her with her searches. She continued to successfully scour the beach for fossils and, unintentionally, helped to change what we know about life on Earth in prehistoric times. Soon, she was able to set up her own shop selling fossils to visitors. Nowadays, the Lyme Regis Museum is located on the spot where Mary Anning lived.

FOSSILIST'S GUIDE

The serious fossil hunter needs some important pieces of equipment. To remove possible fossils intact from rock, you will need a strong hammer and a chisel. To protect your eyes from flying rock splinters, safety glasses will prevent injury. A waterproof bag with strong straps and easily accessible pockets will be required for possible finds as well as sandwiches and a bottle of water. Sturdy walking boots will protect your ankles on uneven ground.

A final word of warning: NEVER ATTEMPT TO CLIMB THE CLIFFS.



1. Describe **two** of the tragic events that happened in Mary's family as she was growing up.

1) _____

2) _____

2 marks

2. How did the family try to make some extra money?

1 mark

3. What kind of books were among those she read?

1 mark

4. Why were scientists interested in her collection of fossils?

1 mark

5. Why are there so many fossils to be found along the coast of Dorset?

2 marks

6. How did Mary Anning become a celebrity?

1 mark

7. How did life become better for her after the discovery of the ichthyosaurus fossil?

1 mark

8. 'She continued to successfully scour the beach for fossils and, unintentionally, helped to change what we know about life on Earth in prehistoric times.'
What does **unintentionally** mean? **Circle one.**

without meaning to

deliberately

without stress

1 mark

9. Apart from finding your own fossils on the beach, where in Dorset do you think you might be able to see some fossils?

1 mark

10. 'To extract possible fossils intact from rock...'
What does **intact** mean?
Circle one.

hidden

sharp

complete

1 mark

11. Write down **two** examples of equipment, suggested in the **Fossilist's Guide**, a serious fossil hunter would need in order to remove fossils from rocks.

1) _____

2) _____

1 mark

12. Why do fossil hunters need to protect their eyes?

1 mark

13. Why do fossil hunters need sturdy boots?

1 mark

14. The last sentence in the **FOSSILIST'S GUIDE** is in bold. Why do you think that is?

1 mark