

Name _____

Mary Anning



Mary Anning was born on May 21st, 1799 in Dorset, England. Her education was limited. She attended a Sunday school and read scientific articles. The town she lived in was a tourists spot and was known to have fossils. She and her family supplemented their income by selling fossils and things to tourists. The study of fossils as a science was still in its early stages at this time.

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Anning was able to open up a shop from the money she made. Geologists and fossil collectors would visit her and buy from her collection. Women were excluded from the scientific community. She was more knowledgeable about fossils and geology than the men who would buy from her but they published the scientific descriptions of the specimens she found and didn't give her credit. Even though she was a pioneer in the field the Geological Society of London refused her or any women until 1904. The 1830's were financially difficult for Anning and England. The demand for fossils was lessened and she was struggling to get by. A geologist friend of hers sold art prints to support her. In the same year she found a skeleton of a new type of plesiosaur. When she had further financial troubles another friend of hers asked the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the British government to give her a pension for her contributions. She died from breast cancer on March 9th, 1847 at the age of 47.



Name _____

Mary Anning

1. She was born on _____
in _____.

2. Name what she is famous for



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3. She found the first _____

5. She got a pension from _____

6. She died on _____

