



FREE RESOURCES

Pictures for talk in primary science

A picture can be a very good stimulus for children to engage in effective talk in science.

Using pictures is an inclusive approach that facilitates high levels of participation. Pictures can also be used as a starting point for inquiry. The discussions the children have will generate questions that they want to investigate.

Asking the children carefully chosen questions about the picture will support them with learning to:

- *construct explanations and link their ideas with evidence*
- *make confident challenges to the ideas of others*
- *explore scientific terminology and use it with genuine understanding*

Pictures for talk in science activities are designed to be very open ended and usable with any age of children. The activities can be done as a quick ten minute starter, or extended into a longer and more in-depth lesson.

WHAT TO DO

Download the image overleaf by following the [link](#), and either display on a whiteboard or give children printed copies. Ask the children to work in groups of three to discuss the following questions:

The picture was painted in 1830, but what time in history do you think it represents?

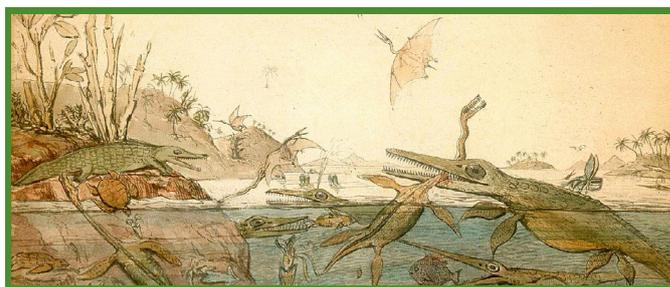
Why do you think this?

The animals drawn here would have been alive hundreds of millions of years ago. What evidence do you think the artist must have seen to be able to draw them?

Where might the evidence have been found?

Other questions to generate and promote thinking and explaining

- Ask the children to look closely at the animals.
- What similarities are there to animals you might see today? Are there any differences?
- How many different animals can you see? Can you sort them into groups?



'Duria Antiquior – A more ancient Dorset' is a watercolour painted in 1830 by the geologist Henry De la Beche based on fossils found by Mary Anning, and was the first pictorial representation of a scene from deep time based on fossil evidence.

- What other living things are in the picture?
- Can you create a possible food chain from animals in the picture?
- What do the animals need to stay alive?

Follow-on discussion ideas

- Why might these animals (or their descendants) no longer be seen today?
- The artist used fossil evidence discovered by Mary Anning. What type of scientist was Mary Anning?
- Ask the children to find out more about her life and work.
- Why might her life be considered unusual at that time?

For more information and ideas for teaching about fossils and geology, visit [The Big Jurassic Classroom](#), or come to PSTT Fellow Carol Sampey's workshop on Friday 7th June at PSEC 2019.



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