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|  | **MARY ANNING** | | |
| This section uses the historical figure of Mary Anning to develop skills in History and as an introduction to the Jurassic rocks this famous fossil hunter worked with. This element could be used as a local history study for students living on the Jurassic Coast, and/or within a study of Victorian Britain for KS2 History. Historical skills are linked to Geologists’ skills because both look for evidence about the past, so this activity links nicely with the Rock Detectives in KQ6. | | | |
| **Key Stage 2** | **Timing: 2 Lessons** | **Science, History** | |
| **ACTIVITY** | | **LEARNING OUTCOMES** | **RESOURCES** |
| **‘Spot the difference’:** Give out photographs of Lyme Regis when Mary Anning was alive and present day. Ask pupils to note as many differences as they can. What are the important differences? What do they think might have caused the changes?  **The Mary Anning Story**: Explain to the pupils that they are going to build up a picture about a person who lived in Lyme Regis called Mary Anning. Explain that this involves **inferring**, or making an educated guess based on the artefacts and evidence: something that historians and geologists both do. This activity works well when you have real artefacts to show to the children, but if you can’t get hold of them then pictures will do. Take each ‘item’ out of a box one at a time and ask the students to answer the questions on their sheet about each item (or you could do this as a Q & A and collate their answers on the board). Items include a rock hammer, apron or bonnet, encyclopaedia, or any other items you can find that will relate to the Mary Anning Story.  Give the pupils the Mary Anning Story to read and answer the questions on the sheet (WS 8.2) (you may prefer to tell them the story yourself or use the role play cards and encourage the children to role play scenes before asking them to answer the questions.  **Plenary:** Ask pupils to complete the sentence, “I think Mary Anning was significant because…” | | * Select basic but appropriate information * Describe observations * Communicate views and opinions appropriately * Make simple explanations for observations * Compare and contrast * Reason * Demonstrate understanding through explanation * Make links and identify relationships between observations and outcomes * Reach well formulated conclusions and make sound judgements based on evidence | Worksheet 1 Lyme Regis: Spot the difference photos  Worksheet 2: Rings of Inference  Worksheet 3: The Mary Anning Story  Worksheet 4: Role Play Cards |

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| **Worksheet 1 Pictures of Lyme Regis through time** |
| dcm_pht_06431d3 |
| http://www.dcda.org.uk/images/jpg600/dcm_pht_06354d3.jpg |
| http://www.dcda.org.uk/images/jpg600/dcm_pht_07302d3.jpg |
| http://www.dcda.org.uk/images/jpg600/dcm_pht_06369d3.jpg  **1845 (Mary Anning’s time)** |
| http://www.dcda.org.uk/images/jpg600/dcm_pht_06358d3.jpg  **1822** |
| lyme_beach_july_2006_3[1]  **Present day** |
| lyme-regis-gb677[1]  **Present day** |
| Broad_St,_Lyme_Regis_JR1  **Present day** |

**Worksheet 2: Mary Anning Rings of Inference**

What does the artefact tell me about Mary Anning?

What questions would I like to ask Mary Anning?

What can I infer?

**Worksheet 3: The Mary Anning Story**

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Mary_Anning_painting.jpg)

Mary Anning was born on May 21st, 1799 in Lyme Regis. When she was only 15 months old, she was struck by lightning but she survived. Mary was named after an older sister who burned to death. She had 6 brothers and sisters, but only one brother lived longer than a couple of years.

Her father was called Richard. He was a cabinet maker, but he didn’t get paid very much. To make more money, he searched for fossils in the cliffs near Lyme Regis and sold them to tourists. He died when Mary was 11 years old, leaving the family without any money.

Fossil collecting was very fashionable in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries. People liked to collect fossils as a hobby similar to stamp collecting. However, as scientists realised how important fossils are to geology and biology, fossil collecting became an important part of science.

Like her father, Mary Anning collected fossils to sell to tourists to make a living. She began to make even more money selling fossils to scientists. She made some very important discoveries, including the first complete skeleton of an ichthyosaur when she was only 12 years old. She also found the first ever skeleton of a plesiosaur and an important fossil pterosaur. The fossils she collected were important evidence that creatures could become extinct, something that had not been recognised before.

When she was in her thirties, Mary was given an income by the British Association for the Advancement of Science because of all the work she had done collecting fossils. At the time, women weren’t allowed to be members of the Geological Society of London, but because of her important work she was made an honorary member. She died of breast cancer when she was 47 years old.

**Questions**

1. What did Mary Anning do?
2. Why was her work important?
3. Why was Mary Anning unusual?

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| **Scene 1:**  Mary Anning, aged 1, is outside with 3 other people. Lightning strikes, and the other 3 people die but Mary survives. Her Mum comes to collect her. | **Scene 2:**  Mary Anning, aged 7, is out with her father learning how to find fossils. He teaches her how to look for signs of the fossils in the cliff and carefully remove the fossil without damaging it. |
| **Scene 3:**  Mary’s father dies of tuberculosis (a lung disease) when Mary is 11 years old. Mary and her mother and little brother are left without any money, so Mary and her brother Joseph go out fossil collecting full-time to make some money. | **Scene 4:**  Mary’s little brother Joseph finds a fossil skull that looks like a crocodile. After a storm washes away some more of the cliff, Mary finds the rest of the fossil ichthyosaur. |
| **Scene 5:**  Mary meets with a wealthy fossil collecter called Thomas Birch. He sells his own fossil collection and gives the money to Mary because he is so worried about how poor they are. | **Scene 6:**  At a meeting of the Geological Society of London, Mary is made an honorary member even though she is female and they women are not usually allowed to join. |

**Worksheet 4: Mary Anning role play cards**