

Mary Anning Statue Secured

What is a fossil?

- A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a living thing.
- When a creature dies, it can become buried in sedimentary rock. Over millions of years, rock replaces the bones and creates a fossil of what was there.

A 13-year-old fossil hunter, named Evie, has managed to raise enough money to get a statue of the famous fossil hunter, Mary Anning sculpted.

Evie Swire learned about Mary Anning while on a fossil hunting trip. She was inspired by Mary's achievements but was shocked to find that there was no statue of Mary in her hometown of Lyme Regis in Dorset. She decided to launch the campaign group "Mary Anning Rocks."

With the help of lots of **donations**, Evie was able to raise a whopping £70 000! The money raised is enough for an artist to start sculpting a bronze statue. It is hoped that the statue will be finished by the 21st May, 2022, which will be the **anniversary** of Mary's birthday.

Mary Anning was born in 1799. She grew up poor and would help her dad collect fossils, known at the time as '**curiosities**', from the beach for extra money.

When Mary was just 12, she discovered the skeleton of a creature. This would later be known as an ichthyosaur (meaning fish lizard). They were a marine reptile that lived about 200 million years ago!

Later in life, Mary also discovered the skeleton of a plesiosaurus, a marine reptile and a Dimorphodon, a flying reptile. Because discoveries like these were rare, people began to

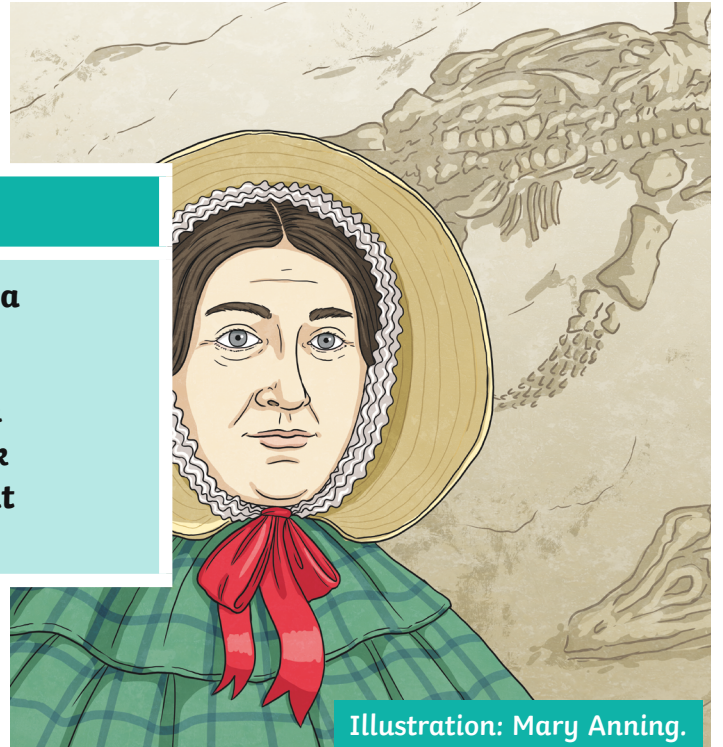


Illustration: Mary Anning.

think that Mary was making the creatures up.

During her life, Mary also faced **prejudice** because she was a woman. Male scientists often did not credit her for her work. They would sometimes buy fossils from her and then claim the work had been their own.

Mary's statue is being designed by Denise Dutton. The finished design will be of Mary walking on the coast with her collection basket and her dog Tray. Mary's basket will be hollow. This is to encourage children to deposit any fossils they find into her basket.

Evie also hopes that the statue will inspire more young girls to be inspired by Mary's story and to become interested in science.

Glossary

donations	Money people have given.
anniversary	The date something happened in a previous year.
curiosities	Strange or unexplainable things.
prejudice	Being treated unfairly.