

Name: _____

Mary Anning

You've likely seen huge fossils on display in museums. Imagine digging in the ground and finding one of those! Mary Anning found many whole fossils starting when she was just 12 years old!

Mary was born in England in 1799. When Mary was little, she loved searching for fossils with her father. Her family was poor. Mary sold the fossils she found to make extra money. After her father died, selling fossils became the main way her family made money.

With the help of her brother, Mary made many scientific discoveries. She found the first complete skeleton of a *Plesiosaurus* in 1823. This was a type of large marine reptile. Mary also found the first ever fossil of an *Ichthyosaurus*. The name means "fish lizard," but it was a marine reptile. Today Mary Anning is known as one of the greatest fossil hunters of all time.



1. Which fact about Mary Anning is not true?

- a. She sold the fossils she found.
- b. She found the first complete skeleton of a *Plesiosaurus*.
- c. She was from England.
- d. She found all the fossils without any help.

2. What is the author's purpose for writing this?

- a. to inform the reader about different types of fossils
- b. to inform the reader about Mary Anning and her accomplishments
- c. to inform the reader about challenges Mary Anning faced
- d. to persuade the reader to visit a museum

3. What are two types of fossils Anning found?

4. Why do you think Mary Anning is known as one of the greatest fossil hunters of all time?

ANSWER KEY

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Plesiosaurus* and *Ichthyosaurus

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Answers may vary. An example is: She found many complete fossils.