

Here is a **biography** from Bitesize History about the famous fossil hunter Mary Anning.

Mary Anning was born on 21 May 1799. She lived in the English seaside town of Lyme Regis in Dorset. Her family were very poor, which meant she didn't get to attend school much. Instead, she mainly taught herself to read and write.

*Mary would spend her time searching the coast looking for what she called '**curiosities**'. Later in her life, as she developed a better understanding of her finds, she realised they were actually **fossils**.*

Over the course of her life she made many incredible discoveries. This made her famous among some of the most important scientists of the day. They would visit her for advice and to discuss scientific ideas about fossils. Today, Mary is remembered as one of the greatest fossil hunters to have ever lived.