

Researchers in action

Throughout history, we have found different figures whose work has enriched the field of evolution

Mary Anning (1799 - 1847)



Mary Anning was born into a modest English family who supplemented their income by selling all the fossils they found in Lyme Regis, a coastal town in West Dorset. During the Early Jurassic, between 201 and 174 million years ago, that area was covered by a warm, shallow sea, and inhabited by many ancient reptiles.

At the age of 12, Mary discovered the first complete fossil of an ichthyosaur and at 24 she found the first *Plesiosaurus*. Eventually, she became a very successful collector and naturalist, in a world and a discipline dominated mostly by men. She became an honorary member of the Geological Society of London and died of breast cancer at age 47.