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## SCIENCE ACTIVITY: Introduction to Fossils

**TIME NEEDED:** 40 mins

**AGE:** Year 3

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Knowledge:** Fossils, early fossil hunter Mary Anning, prehistoric creatures

**Skills:** Drawing, research



CLICK HERE!

### ➤ MATERIALS

Sketchbooks, pencils, rubbers. Common fossils (ammonites, gryphae, animal vertebrae, shells, belemnites, echinoids). Your local museum may have a handling collection you can use.

You can see fossils in 3D [here](#).

You can also get replicas [here](#).

### ➤ INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHILDREN

- Watch the sand animation video about Mary Anning [here](#).
- Or a longer more indepth video about Mary's life [here](#).  
Discuss what fossils she found and what age they are.
- Watch the video on fossil formation [here](#).
- Make drawings of the fossils you have. Work like a scientist and explore the whole fossil. Take rubbings of it. Draw around its shape. Choose a side of the fossil and do an in-depth drawing that includes all the lines you can see.
- Looking at all your drawings, what clues do they give you to the creatures or plants your fossils once were? Do a drawing of the creatures, or plants.

### ➤ FOLLOW UP...

Work in pairs. Looking at your creatures can you work out what parts of the body became fossils and what rotted away or got eaten?



EMERALD  
ANT