

Who was Mary Anning?



A cross-curricular project for 8-11 year olds



St. Benet's RC Primary School

Lower Junior Project

The project focus is on that of a female palaeontologist in pre/early Victorian England called Mary Anning. One key point of the project is to develop good skills of historical enquiry. Considerable emphasis is placed on obtaining information from a range of sources, distinguishing between primary and secondary sources, categorising, and evaluating reliability and so on. Later on in the project some of the children's books that recount Mary's life are introduced and children look at how these compare to the facts as we know them and to one another.

For children, the project on Mary Anning can be incredibly intriguing. The idea that an eleven year old girl can discover the fossil of an ichthyosaur is incredibly powerful. The story around the death her dog Tray is equally so. The determination and sheer grit that made Mary Anning who she was – all these are aspects we should want children to be exposed to.

We aim to provide our children with a broad and balanced curriculum where exciting and stimulating lessons promote the development of children's knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum.