



SCIENCE



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Interview with Mary Anning: Sedimentary Rocks & Fossils

Age Group:	7-9
Topic:	Sedimentary Rocks and Fossils
Learning Outcome:	Science: I can model and talk about finding fossils at Lyme Regis, in role as Mary Anning. PSHE: To explore how women's rights have changed through history.
Drama Overview:	The children watch an interview with Mary Anning and then use their bodies to construct Freeze Frames of scenes from Mary's life. Then, the Lead Adult uses the Thought Tapping strategy to find out what each member of the Freeze Frame is representing. The children answer in role.
Prior Learning:	The children watch the downloadable video. They may have also researched the life of Mary Anning - there are lots of child friendly videos about her online.

DELIVERING THE DRAMA

Play the video by clicking on the download button above. 

Put the children into groups of 4-5.

- Say: We are going to create some **Freeze Frames** to represent different scenes from Mary's life. In your groups, you must decide what each person will represent. You might be a human, such as Mary, her mother, Joseph or Miss Philpot. You might be a fossil, the rock or the sea. You might be an onlooker or a tool Mary is using - it depends on the scene you are representing.
- Say: In your groups, you need to discuss how to show it using the people in your group. You won't have long so make decisions quickly. Then, when I say, "Freeze!", you must all take your places in the scene.
- Say: Let's all do the first scene together. Mary is on the beach, looking for fossils when she finds and picks up an ammonite. Can you remember what she called ammonites?

Children might respond with: curiosities or snake stones.

Say: I'm going to give you a minute to chat within your groups about who will play what part and then I will say "Freeze" and you need to get into position. Time to talk with your group.

Give the children a short time to discuss - it might be a bit more than a minute.

Say: 3 - 2 - 1 - FREEZE!

Give specific praise to children who have made an effort to create an interesting scene.

Say: Okay! UNFREEZE, and sit down. In a moment, I will ask you to make the scene with Mary on the beach again, but this time I will come and interview the different parts of the **Freeze Frame**. I might ask what part you are playing. I might ask what you are thinking or feeling, so get those ideas ready now.

Ask half the class to recreate their **Freeze Frames** whilst the rest watch as an audience. Now choose a member or two from each **Freeze Frame** to interview, as demonstrated in the box below.

Switch the groups so that the children who have been the audience are now showing their **Freeze Frame** and **Thought Tap** some of that group.

Say: Well done - great work!

At this point, you can decide whether to go through each scene on the list below with all the children or give each group a different scene to work on. These are some scenes you might choose to use:

- Joseph has seen the eye of the ichthyosaur in the cliff
- Mary is working at the cliff face to release the fossil from the rock
- Mary is telling her mother about her fossil
- Mary is trying to work out what animal the fossil comes from with Miss Philpot
- The fossil is on display in London

What the **Freeze Frames** and **Thought Tapping** might look like...

Scene - Mary on the beach fossil hunting.

Child A is Mary, kneeling on the beach.

Child B lies on the floor in front of her in a curled shape, representing an ammonite.

Child C is wafting their warms to and fro to be the sea.

Child D is creating a shape with their body to represent the basket.

Child E is Mary's father, watching over her shoulder.

When **Thought Tapped** by the Lead Adult, they might say:

Child A: I am Mary. I am looking for fossils on the beach at Lyme Regis. We need to find them to sell to the tourists.

Lead Adult: How do you feel?

Child A: I am hungry so I hope this fossil is a good one. I mustn't chip it.

Child B: I am an ammonite - an ancient squid. I lived 200 million years ago.

Lead Adult: What are you thinking?

Child B: I am a fine fossil. I hope this little girl doesn't break me.

Child C: I am the sea. Today I am calm but tomorrow I might be stormy and knock down those cliffs.

Child D: I am a basket. I was woven by Mary's mother. I am Mary's favourite basket.

Lead Adult: How do you feel?

Child D: I am excited. Mary is about to find a new fossil and I will carry it home for her. I can't wait to see it.

Child E: I am Mary's father. I am proud of my hard working little girl. She has a gift for this. She always finds the best fossil.

Lead Adult: What are you thinking?

Child E: It is a shame she was not able to go to school. She has a good and curious mind.