

Name _____ Date _____ Hour _____

Mary Anning: Fossil Girl

Read the passages from the article below and write your responses in the boxes provided.

Mary's Life	Text in the Middle	Your Life
<p>How do you think this event affected how Mary thought about herself as she was growing up?</p>	<p>Mary herself nearly died only 15 months after birth. One rainy day, the townspeople were watching a parade in the village. A woman who was the Annings' neighbor was holding baby Mary, chatting with two friends, while standing under a tree to stay out of the rain. Suddenly, with a loud CRACK!, a bolt of lightning struck the tree. All three women were killed instantly. Mary appeared to be dead also, but she was rushed back to her house where she was revived in a bath of warm water.</p> <p>Mary's miraculous survival convinced many people in the town that she would be very special someday. And indeed, Mary grew up to be an unusually curious, intelligent and very lively child, with a wonderful sense of humor.</p>	<p>Tell about a time when you or someone close to you survived a near disaster.</p>

What does this passage tell you about Mary's character or personality?

Mary's mother stopped collecting fossils at some point after her husband died. Not long after that Joseph found another job. Mary gradually took over the family fossil business. With her growing interest in fossils, she would read any books and scientific articles she could find, and became friends with many of the wealthy and educated people who came to visit Lyme Regis. Sometimes she borrowed scientific papers from the geologists who bought fossils from her. She would copy the papers out completely by hand, adding her own expert comments and detailed drawings. Mary also practiced dissecting modern sea animals so that she could learn more about the anatomy of the fossilized creatures she was finding.

Tell about a time when you decided to learn something just because you wanted to, not because you "had" to do it.

How do you think Mary felt about this situation?

Unfortunately, as an uneducated woman, Mary was not allowed to join any of the scientific organizations at that time. Therefore she received no recognition for her work in the scientific literature. In fact, when fossils she had found appeared in museum collections, Mary was never given credit for her discoveries. Instead, the museum would only identify the wealthy person who had bought the fossil and donated it to the museum.

Tell about a time when you were not given credit for a good thing you did.

On the timeline below, place the following events in Mary Anning's life, by writing the letter of the event in the correct place. As an example, the letter "i" has already been placed to show that the "first" Mary Anning (Mary's older sister) died from a fire in 1799 at the age of 4.

- h. Mary finds the first known *ichthyosaur*.
- o. Mary finds the first known *plesiosaur*.
- i. The "first" Mary Anning dies at age 4 when her clothes catch on fire.
- u. Mary dies of cancer at the age of 47.
- s. Mary's dog, Tray, dies when a cliff collapses while Mary is fossil hunting.
- a. Henry De la Beche commissions a painting of animals discovered by Mary. He sells the painting and gives the money to Mary.
- c. Mary is born 5 months after her sister died.
- t. Mary's father dies, leaving young Mary to run the family fossil business.
- r. Several species of prehistoric animals are named in honor of Mary following her death.
- h. Mary survives being struck by lightning.
- y. A wealthy fossil collector sells his collection and gives the money to the Anning family.

