

In a thunderstorm, lightning struck at a fair; a woman holding Mary and two other people were killed but Mary was unhurt.

Mary opened a shop to sell fossils, stones and shells. She chatted with visitors.

After a short illness, Mary Anning died in 1847.

Mary and Joseph were fossil hunting. They were near a cliff, when Joseph saw a skull sticking out of the rock. Mary had a hammer to chip away at the rock. Very carefully she uncovered a skeleton that looked like a crocodile - she had found the first complete fossil 'ichthyosaurus', or 'fish-lizard'.

Mary's father took his children along the beach. They picked up shells and stones to sell to visitors on their stall on the seafront.

Mary was born in England on 21 May 1799. She lived in the seaside town of Lyme Regis, in Dorset.

Mary's father died after falling from a cliff.

Most days Mary went fossil hunting with her dog, Tray. She found a giant sea reptile (or Plesiosaur), a flying reptile and a prehistoric fish.

Mary's mother and father were poor. They had nine children but only Mary and her brother Joseph grew up - the other children died.