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# Rare Treasure: Mary Anning And Her Remarkable Discoveries



## Synopsis

Before the word "dinosaur" was even coined, a young girl discovered a remarkable skeleton on the rocky beach at Lyme Regis in England. Thus began a lifelong passion for an extraordinary woman who became one of the first commercial fossil collectors. Born in 1799, Mary Anning spent a lifetime teaching herself about fossils and combing the rugged ribbon of shore near her home. Her work yielded an astounding treasure trove: fossils of long-extinct creatures that thrilled customers in her shop and excited early paleontologists. Blind to the dangers of fossil-hunting and to the limitations imposed on women of her era, Mary Anning was a singular scientist who used her sharp eyes and clear mind to compose a picture of ancient life from the bones she unearthed. With his trademark graceful prose and lyrical watercolors, Don Brown distills the life story of this rare treasure of a scientist.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 840L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (September 27, 1999)

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #852,193 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #101 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Fossils](#) #539 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Science & Technology](#) #1052 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dinosaurs](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Having loved all of Don Brown's previous work, I was happy to see that this work was highly praised by Pulitzer Prize-winner Natalie Angier in the New York Times Book Review. Rare Treasure was even better than the first books: historically accurate, engaging, and beautifully illustrated. Brown is able to write simply and humanistically about remarkable people, in a way that allows the young

reader to relate. He spoke at my daughters' elementary school, and both kids and parents are still talking about his work. Bravo! Don Brown, write more!

I have used this book (and others by Don Brown) to support a "Famous People" unit I teach in my 2nd grade classroom. I love the illustrations in this book and the inspiring and interesting text. This book would be especially (but certainly not exclusively) appealing for children interested in prehistoric times.

What a lovely story and beautiful illustrations. Mary Anning provides a great female role model (especially given her time in history). I am always thrilled to find great books about true, historical events and people. My two girls were both captured by the story and illustrations - they often ask "did this really happen?" of books we read - it was great to be able to say YES! This book is a treasure indeed.

Don Brown did a nice job with this children's picture book biography on Mary Anning, a self-taught woman who made fossil hunting a passion and a career beginning at a very early age. This story is filled with numerous facts yet also told in an entertaining way; perfect for any elementary biography report.

Mary Anning, like so many famous and influential people, had a difficult childhood. Impoverished from birth, she and her brother looked for fossils to help support the family. And when she was grown, she continued to do so. The field of paleontology was very, very young when Anning entered it, and she was influential in many of the important discoveries that were made then - and now, even. However, because of her sex she's never received much recognition from the rest of the world. This book is clear and concise, covering her life from early childhood to adulthood. The artwork is simple enough, and the language should be easy for children to grasp. I got this book from my Secret Santa over at LibraryThing, and I intend to buy more books by this author. One note - a commenter below said that it was untrue that Mary Anning "read her science" because there wasn't any paleontology to read yet! I agree that the sentence was unclear, however, a little research indicates that she read books on zoology and biology to help her gain an understanding of what she was unearthing, as well as papers on fossils by the few people who had started to write them at that point.

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