

1.b.

SCIENCE ACTIVITY: Fossil Finding Mission

TIME NEEDED: 1-2 hours

AGE: Upper KS2 / Year 5, 6

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge: Fossils and dinosaurs, basic palaeontology

Skills: Independent research skills, planning, drawing



MATERIALS

Sketchbooks, A2 cartridge paper, pencils, rubbers, coloured pencils.

ACTIVITY

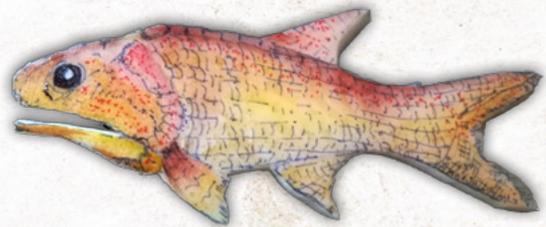
Look at this painting, *Duria Antiquior (An Ancient Dorset)* by Henry de la Beche (1830), at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duria_Antiquior. It is one of the first scientific paintings based upon the fossils found by Mary Anning in Lyme Regis.



- Choose an animal from the painting. Research the animal online or in books. Try to identify it and draw the animal from the internet / books into your sketchbook. Look closely and see what differences there are between the modern images of these ancient creatures, and Henry's paintings of them in 1830. Why is this?

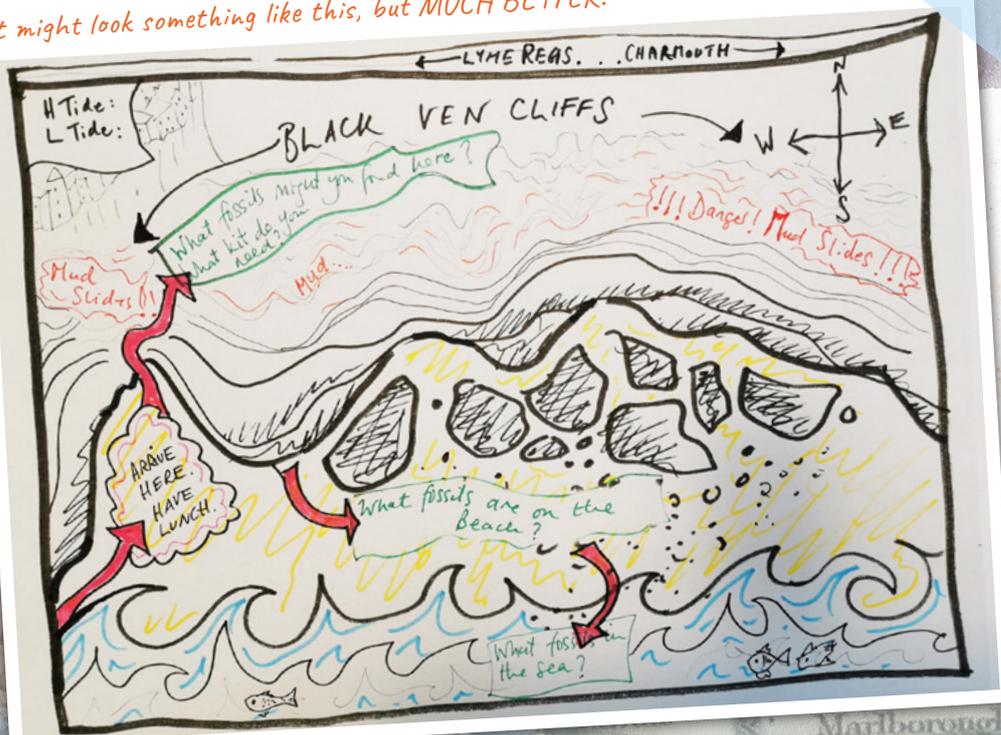
Henry and Mary spent much time fossil hunting on the beach. Now it's your turn. Pretend you're going to Lyme Regis Beach to do some palaeontological research!

- Choose one of the animals from 'Duria Antiquior' to research on your fossil hunt. Then plan your trip...
- What clues will you look for when you get to the beach? *
- What safety procedures will you need to take?
- What time of day will you go?
- What kit do you need to take with you?
- What do you need to survive?
- What information do you need to have before you go?



Make a map of your planned trip. Put in the sea, beach and cliffs using colours and textures. Add the fossils you might find in those places. Then mark in your trail, adding your activities. Add notes to yourself, for example, safety warnings, a list of kit that you need, and the tide times.

It might look something like this, but MUCH BETTER!



* (Clues might include fossils, footprints, teeth marks on other fossilised animals, fossilised plants, fossilised poo that can be analysed, rock strata).

Where are you going to look?
What kind of rock will yield exciting fossils?

