

# Rapid Reading

## Lesson 4 Rapid Reading

各 Part の英文を見開き1ページで見ることができます。  
Lesson 全体の英文を使用して、速読の練習をすることができます。

### Part 1

In the Natural History Museum in London, there is a popular gallery featuring a variety of fossils. There, a portrait of a woman is displayed with them. Her name is Mary Anning. She was a professional fossil hunter who made many important discoveries. 5

Anning often did not receive credit for her work. However, the fossils that she found changed scientists' understanding of the history of the earth. They showed that species changed in shape over long periods of time. Some of her discoveries were even used as examples for Darwin's theory of evolution. With such a successful career in science, what kind of life did Mary Anning live? 10

### Part 2

Anning was born in 1799. Early in her childhood, she would often go to the coast near her house with her father. Her father looked for fossils to sell. When she was 11 years old, however, her father died. After that, her family became very poor. To support her family, Anning began to work harder to collect fossils. 15

In 1811, during a hunt, she discovered a full skeleton of a strange creature. Its head looked like a crocodile, but the rest of its body looked like a fish. It was the first time for anyone to see such a fossil. She was able to sell it for 23 pounds. This was enough money to support her family for several months, but the fossil was actually much more valuable than that. 20

### Part 3

Scientists of the time thought the skeleton which Anning found was a crocodile. Some thought it had come from a distant land. This mysterious creature was studied and discussed for years. Eventually, it was proved to be a new species. They named it *Ichthyosaurus*. 5

Anning studied geology and anatomy on her own. Over time, she became more and more interested in fossil hunting. In 1823, she discovered the first complete skeleton of a *Plesiosaurus*. In 1829, she found a strange-looking fossil that had the features of both a shark and a ray. After several years of research, the new creature was named *Squaloraja*. As a result, her discoveries were increasingly recognized. 10

### Part 4

The fossils that Anning discovered were vital to scientific progress. Despite this, she continued to live a hard life. Scientists often bought her fossils and published papers about them, but did not put her name in their papers. Since she was a woman, she could not attend university or join a scientific society. 15

Unfortunately, Anning died at the age of 47. While few people knew her name and her achievements during her lifetime, her discoveries are now displayed in world-famous museums. The coast that she searched for fossils is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Thousands of people visit it every year to look for fossils. In 2022, near that coast, a statue of Mary Anning was put up to recognize her achievements. About 180 years after her death, her memory survives thanks to her historic discoveries. 20

Total Words 485

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### True or False

本文全体の内容理解を確認します。True or False の正答数と本文を読むのにかかった時間をもとに、巻末の WPM 表でスコアを算出することができます。

### True or False

1. ( ) 2. ( ) 3. ( )

- Mary Anning was not so famous while she was alive, but she found many important fossils.
- Mary Anning began collecting fossils hard to support her father.
- Mary Anning was increasingly recognized as a great scientist some years before she died.