



## PEOPLE OF PALEONTOLOGY

### Activity Overview

#### BIG IDEA

The field of paleontology has evolved over the years and continues to grow as more discoveries are made! The paleontologists highlighted on this activity are just a few of the many influential paleontologists throughout history and modern day.

#### OBJECTIVE

Students will explore different influential paleontologists and identify misconceptions about who can be a paleontologist or scientist.

#### BACKGROUND

A paleontologist is a scientist who studies fossils and ancient animals and plants.

The paleontologists featured in this activity are just a few of many scientists who have contributed to our knowledge of life on Earth. Remember, paleontologists don't only study dinosaurs, they also study fossilized plants and other living things from the past.

Included here are the paleontologists featured in this activity, along with the associated dates and a source to reference.

**Mary Anning** (1799-1847) was an English fossil hunter who started collecting fossils as a little girl and sold them to help support her family. She also found the first Plesiosaur and Ichthyosaurus.

For more information:

*"Mary Anning (1799-1847)." Berkeley. Web. 14 Apr. 2016.*

**Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins** (1807-1894) made the first dinosaur models. He hosted a dinner party for some famous scientists inside his life-size model of an Iguanodon!

For more information:

*Kerley, Barbara, Brian Selznick, and David Saylor. The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins: An Illuminating History of Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins, Artist and Lecturer. Scholastic, 2001.*











## People of Paleontology (Cont.)

Listen to or read about paleontologists who made important discoveries.

Would you change anything in your sketch?

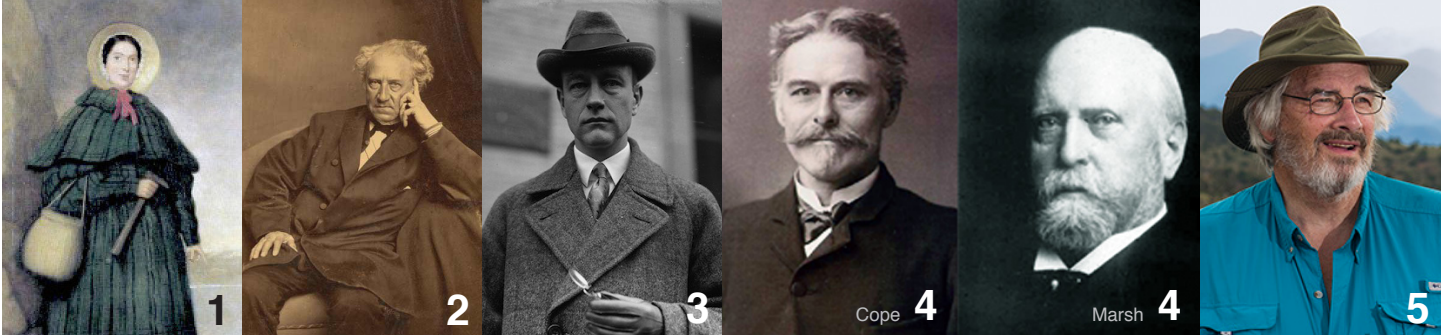
What skills do you need to be a paleontologist?

What about archaeologists? Though paleontology and archaeology are similar, they have a key difference. What is it?



## People of Paleontology

NAME \_\_\_\_\_



### 1. **Mary Anning (1799-1847)**

Anning was an English fossil hunter who started collecting fossils as a little girl and sold them to help support her family. She also found the first Plesiosaur and *Ichthyosaurus*.

“Mary Anning (1799-1847).” Berkeley. Web. 14 Apr. 2016.

### 2. **Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins**

Hawkins made the first dinosaur models. He hosted a dinner party for some famous scientists inside his life-size model of an Iguanodon!

Kerley, Barbara, Brian Selznick, and David Saylor. *The Dinosaurs of Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins: An Illuminating History of Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins, Artist and Lecturer*. Scholastic, 2001.

### 3. **Roy Chapman Andrews (1884-1960)**

Andrews was a fossil hunter and the director of the American Museum of Natural History. He led expeditions to the Gobi Desert where he discovered the first dinosaur eggs and many other new dinosaurs!

Boettcher, Kaitlyn. “Roy Chapman Andrews: A Real Life Indiana Jones.” *Mental Floss*. 25 Mar. 2013.

### 4. **Edward Drinker Cope (1840-1897) and Othniel C. Marsh (1831-1899)**

Cope and Marsh were both fossil hunters and good friends, as time passed, however, the two became more competitive with the number of fossils they discovered, and battled against each other in the “Bone Wars.” Over the course of their lifetimes, Cope found 56 new dinosaur species and Marsh discovered 80!

Colbert, Edwin. *The Great Dinosaur Hunters and Their Discoveries*. Courier Dover Publications. 1984.

### 5. **Jack Horner (born 1946)**

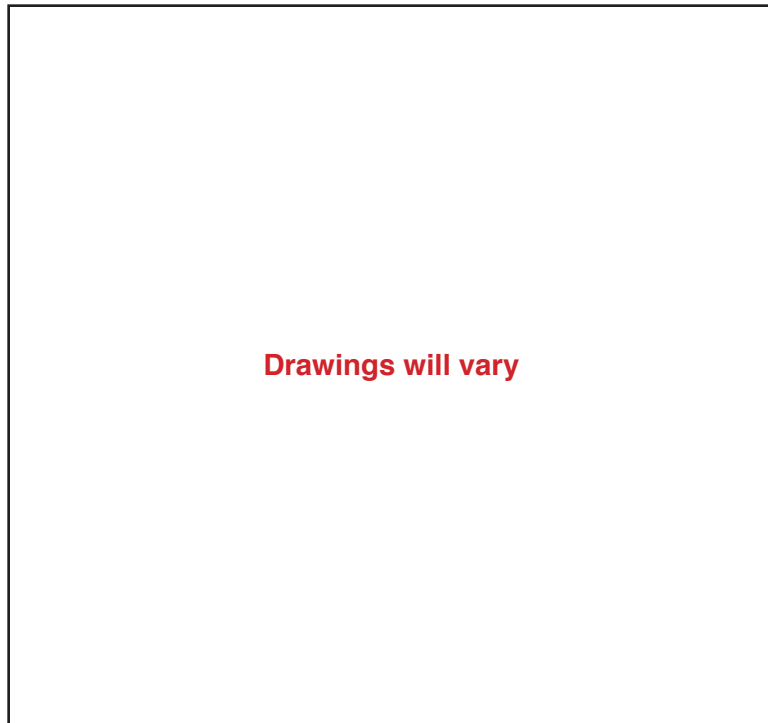
Horner was MOR’s Curator of Paleontology from (1986-2016). He is best known for discovering the first dinosaur eggs in the Western Hemisphere and finding evidence that adult dinosaurs cared for their young. He is also the technical adviser for all of the Jurassic Park movies and is the inspiration for the lead character, Dr. Allan Grant.



## People of Paleontology

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ANSWER KEY \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of a paleontologist.



List three tools that paleontologists use.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Notebook** \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Rock Hammer** \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Other logical answers such as rulers, GPS, burlap, plaster, chisels, jackhammers** \_\_\_\_\_

Where do paleontologists work?

**Universities and dig sites**





## People of Paleontology (Cont.)

Listen to or read about paleontologists who made important discoveries.

Would you change anything in your sketch?

**Answers will vary**

What skills do you need to be a paleontologist?

**Answers will vary**

What about archaeologists? Though paleontology and archaeology are similar, they have a key difference. What is it?

**Archeologists study ancient people.**

**Paleontologists study ancient animals.**