



Welcome to Dorset!

Dorset is most famous for being home to the Jurassic Coast, which has fossil remains from the Jurassic, Cretaceous and Triassic eras and was of course, where Mary Anning made her famous discoveries. The history in the rocks has made it an important area for scientists to study, to learn more about our planet's history, while many people enjoy hunting for fossils, just as Mary Anning did.



- Make your own fossil collection, using salt dough. See what you can press in to it to make a good specimen.
- Find out about dinosaur skeletons and make a pasta replica.
- Make sketches of fossils, using chalk on dark paper. You could also use paper that you have stained with tea or coffee first.





Dorset Buttons - before we had machines and factories, many everyday items would have been made by hand, and this included buttons. Dorset was famous for a particular type, which was hand-stitched by women and children. Fine buttons were a status symbol, and they were most popular between 1620 and 1850. When factories in cities like Birmingham started making them instead, the 'Buttoners' lost their living and many ended up emigrating to America or Australia.

The buttons would have various designs, and now making them has become popular again.

- Start a button collection at home, ready for when you want to try some button crafts - there are hundreds of ideas on-line. (See some ideas that I've put here.)
- Draw different designs for Dorset buttons.
- Watch this clip to see how to make an authentic Dorset button - then marvel as to how they would have made over seventy a day each! The image on the right shows the process step by step too for the basic Dorset Cartwheel.

https://www.google.com/search?q=dorset+buttons+how+to&source=lmns&bih=657&biw=1366&rlz=1C1SAVC_enGB504GB504&hl=en-US&ved=2ahUKEwjxqzI_p3qAhUigXMKHWe1B5kQ_AUoAHoEC_AEQAA#kpvalbx=8iH1XuHPFtKtgQbqq7vYDw35





The Jurassic Coast was formed around 185 million years ago, of mainly a mix of sandstone and limestone. As well as the fossils, the coast also has incredible structures such as Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door. Durdle Door, on the left, formed 140 million years ago, a giant arch over the sea.

- Try sketching out famous coastal features such as these, then painting them in watercolours, or shade lightly in crayon. Try to show the different coloured layers in the cliffs.
- Make a model of a sea-stack or arch. What other famous rock features like these can you find around the coast of Great Britain?
- Poole harbour is the largest natural harbour in Britain, and always full of boats of all shapes and sizes. Can you make a fleet of floating paper boats? (They'd be lovely in a paddling pool!)

