

Mary Anning Statue Secured

What is a fossil?

- A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a living thing.
- When a creature dies, it can become buried in sedimentary rock. Over millions of years, rock replaces the bones and creates a fossil of what was there.



Illustration: Mary Anning.

A 13-year-old fossil hunter, named Evis, has managed to raise enough money to get a statue of the famous fossil hunter, Mary Anning sculpted.

Evis Swire learned about Mary Anning while on a fossil hunting trip. She was inspired by Mary's achievements but was shocked to find that there was no statue of Mary in her hometown of Lyme Regis in Dorset. She decided to launch the campaign group "Mary Anning Rocks."

With the help of lots of donations, Evis was able to raise a whopping £70 000! The money raised is enough for an artist to start sculpting a bronze statue. It is hoped that the statue will be finished by the 21st May, 2022, which will be the anniversary of Mary's birthday.

Mary Anning was born in 1799. She grew up poor and would help her dad collect fossils, known at the time as 'curiosities', from the beach for extra money.

When Mary was just 12, she discovered the skeleton of a creature. This would later be known as an ichthyosaur (meaning fish lizard). They were a marine reptile that lived about 200 million years ago!

Later in life, Mary also discovered the skeleton of a plesiosaurus, a marine reptile and a Dimorphodon, a flying reptile. Because discoveries like these were rare, people began to

think that Mary was making the creatures up.

During her life, Mary also faced prejudice because she was a woman. Male scientists often did not credit her for her work. They would sometimes buy fossils from her and then claim the work had been their own.

Mary's statue is being designed by Denise Dutton. The finished design will be of Mary walking on the coast with her collection basket and her dog Tray. Mary's basket will be hollow. This is to encourage children to deposit any fossils they find into her basket.

Evis also hopes that the statue will inspire more young girls to be inspired by Mary's story and to become interested in science.

Glossary

donations Money people have given.

anniversary The date something happened in a previous year.

curiosities Strange or unexplainable things.

prejudice Being treated unfairly.



Cardboard Beds at Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020

What are the Olympic Games?

- The Olympic Games are one of the biggest sporting competitions in the world.
- They happen every four years. This year, they will be happening in Tokyo, Japan. Sportspeople from 206 countries will be competing in 33 different sports.

Nothing beats a good night's sleep! But how would you feel about sleeping in a cardboard bed? Well, that's what sportspeople will be sleeping in during the Olympic Games.

Last week, the organisers showed the cardboard beds that athletes will sleep in. They need to make 16,000 for the Olympic Games and 8000 for the Paralympics.

The beds will measure 2.1m. This means that even the tallest sportsperson can sleep in it. Takashi Kitajima, the athletes' **village** manager, said the beds are "stronger than wooden beds".

After the Olympic Games, the mattresses will also be recycled. They will be turned into other products for people to use after the Games.

So why will athletes be snoozing in cardboard beds? It's all to do with the environment. Some bedding is made from single-use plastics. These take years to break down. Wildlife charity WWF says it often ends up in the world's oceans where animals mistake it for food.

Instead, planners want the Olympics to be **sustainable**. They want them to "be better, together - for the planet and people".

For the Olympic Games in 2020, they want to make people think about **recycling** rather than throwing things away.

Speaking to reporters, Takashi Kitajima said: "We prefer not to destroy things we build but continue to use them."

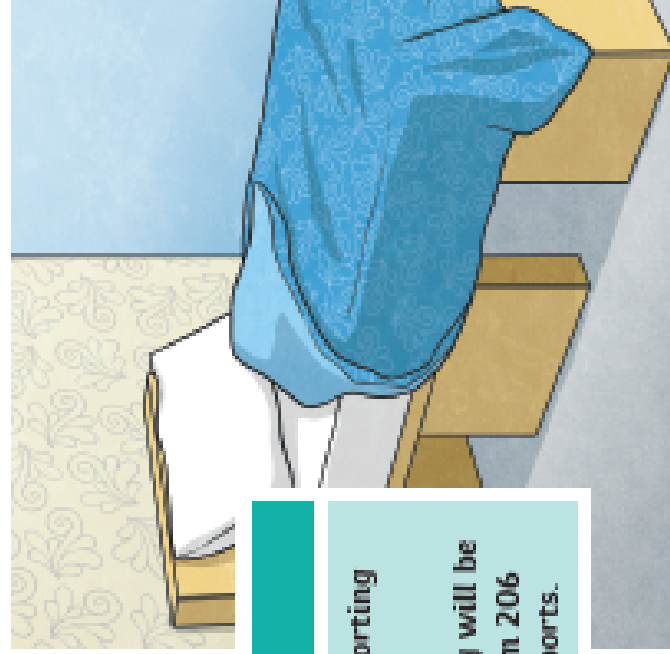


Illustration: A bed made from cardboard boxes.

Beds aren't the only part of the games to be eco-friendly! Designers have used old computers and smartphones to make medals! The **podiums** will even be made from plastic waste.

The Olympics start on 24th July and finish on 9th August. There is then a two-week break before the Paralympics begin. Sportspeople from 206 countries will be competing in 33 different sports.

This year, there will be medals for surfing and skateboarding for the first time. It's sure to be great for sports fans.

Glossary

village	The place where sportspeople stay during the Olympics.
recycled	When a material is used again.
sustainable	To use things carefully without damaging the environment.
podiums	A raised platform where athletes stand when they get a medal.

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