

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

124 INTERSTITIAL: SEÑOR TAPIR

Written by

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FOLLOWS: "SPEEDY SWIMMING"

CURRICULUM: Mary Anning is one of the first female paleontologists, who found fossils of giant swimming reptiles including a full ichthyosaur (when she was only 12 years old) and the first ever skeleton of a plesiosaur.'

LS8. Begin to understand that there are many different kinds of living things and how they may be the same or different: Group different kinds of living things into categories based on basic similarities and differences

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1. EXT MOSSY LAKE -- DAY

Open on six TURTLES sitting on top of a LOG, basking in the sun. One turtle hops off, <PLOPS> into the water and disappears.

On the shore, Señor Tapir and a group of kids watch the turtle swimming.

1 ELINOR 1
(giggling) Where did that turtle
go?!

Elinor watches the water by the log for a few seconds in great anticipation, and suddenly a little turtle head pops up out of the water. The turtle swims at the surface.

2 ELINOR (CONT'D) 2
There it is! Did you know turtle
are reptiles, Señor Tapir?

SEÑOR TAPIR
 (smiling)
 Indeed they are! That's sooo
 interesting, Elinor.
 (strums his guitar)
 Lets sing a song about a scientist
 who discovered some other reptiles
 that could swim...reptiles that
 lived long ago - during the time of
 the dinosaurs!

Señor Tapir starts to sing. After a line or two, we transition to a simpler style of animation that describes what he is singing.

SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)

Mary Anning lived by the sea in the English countryside.

2. EXT ENGLISH COAST SEASIDE -- DAY

Twelve year old MARY ANNING (a badger) walks along the beach of England's Jurassic coast, next to sandy, rock cliffs. She wears a long dress with a cardigan, and she carries a small basket along with a rock hammer and small brush. She leans down to pick up a shell and inspect it.

Cut to a close up of an ICTHYOSAUR SKULL poking out from the sand in the cliff. Mary's face enters the scene as she looks closely at the skull, as if truly wondering what else is underneath it.

5

SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)

5

She often walked along the beach to
see what she could find.
Then one day her brother saw a
skull with pointy teeth,
And Mary started wondering what
else was underneath.

Close up on a small BRUSH that Mary uses to brush dirt away
from the fossil.

Mary keeps digging until she stands up to admire that she has
uncovered a FULL SKELETON of an ICTHYOSAUR. We see an
ichthyosaur (which looks a little like a dolphin) swimming in
water.

6

SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)

6

Mary started digging to see what
she'd uncover,
And at the age of 12 years old, you
know what she discovered?
A huge, full skeleton of an
ichthyosaur,
A reptile that swam around the time
of dinosaurs!

Mary's head dramatically pops up into frame as she looks
around. She walks along the seaside, reaches down and picks
up an ammonite fossil to put in a basket. Then she sits near
the ichthyosaur skeleton and sketches a drawing of it in her
sketchbook.

7

SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)

7

(spoken)
And that ancient skeleton was
called - a fossil.
(singing)
She was a Fossil Hunter!
Digging for fossils on the
seashore,
She was a Fossil Hunter!
Finding big things and looking for
more.

Mary is now an adult, and she walks along the same seaside as
she did when she was twelve years old.

Close up on a small BRUSH that Mary uses to brush dirt away
from the fossil. Mary keeps digging until she stands up to
admire that she has uncovered a FULL SKELETON of a
PLESIOSAUR. We see a plesiosaur (which is a long-necked
reptile) swimming in the water.

8 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 8
Mary grew up and kept searching in
the ground,
And at the age of twenty-two, you
know what she found?
The very first skeleton of a
plesiosaur,
Another swimming reptile from the
time of the dinosaurs!

Mary's head pops into frame. Cut wide to reveal she is
showing other folks (a couple other badgers) her discovery.
They look surprised and amazed.

9 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 9
She was a Fossil Hunter!
Digging for fossils on the
seashore,
She was a Fossil Hunter!
Finding big things and looking for
more.

3. EXT MOSSY LAKE -- DAY

Señor Tapir finishes singing the song in front of the kids.

10 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 10
Looooooking for moooooooooore!

Señor Tapir plays one final loud chord, which scares the five
turtles still sitting on top of the log. The turtles each
<PLOP> into the water quickly, one after another.

The kids <giggle>.

(Music Note: It would be fun to have an accompanying
percussion with the strumming pattern of a washboard, so that
the animation of Mary using the paleontology brush, and
brushing at dirt, syncs up with that rhythm).