

# Dinosaurs



## Curriculum Links:

- Events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally
- The lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements

## Key Facts:

- Dinosaurs lived over 66 million years ago before humans existed. They dominated the Earth for over 150 million years.
- Our knowledge about dinosaurs is based on fossils which have been found. Fossils have been found on all seven continents.
- Fossils are remains of a plant or animal that have been preserved in rock.
- There are roughly 700 known species of dinosaur, however, palaeontologists believe there are many more to still be discovered. 108 species have been found in Britain.
- Scientists don't actually know why dinosaurs became extinct. There are a number of theories why they may have become extinct so rapidly: asteroid impact, climate change or volcanic eruptions.
- Mary Anning was a famous fossil hunter and collector. She made many significant fossil discoveries, she was the first person to find a whole Ichthyosaurus skeleton.



## Key Vocabulary

Evolve	To develop/change gradually
Extinct	Doesn't now exist
Fossil	The shape of a bone, shell, plant or animal that has been preserved in a rock for a very long period
Palaeontologist	Someone who studies fossils to get information about the history of the Earth
Prehistoric	The period of time before there were written records

## Possible trips/visits: We should already know:

- \* Natural History Museum
- \* Maidstone Museum
- \* Maidstone Museum fossil loan box
- Make comments about familiar situations in the past
- Identify similarities and differences about the past
- That some environments are different