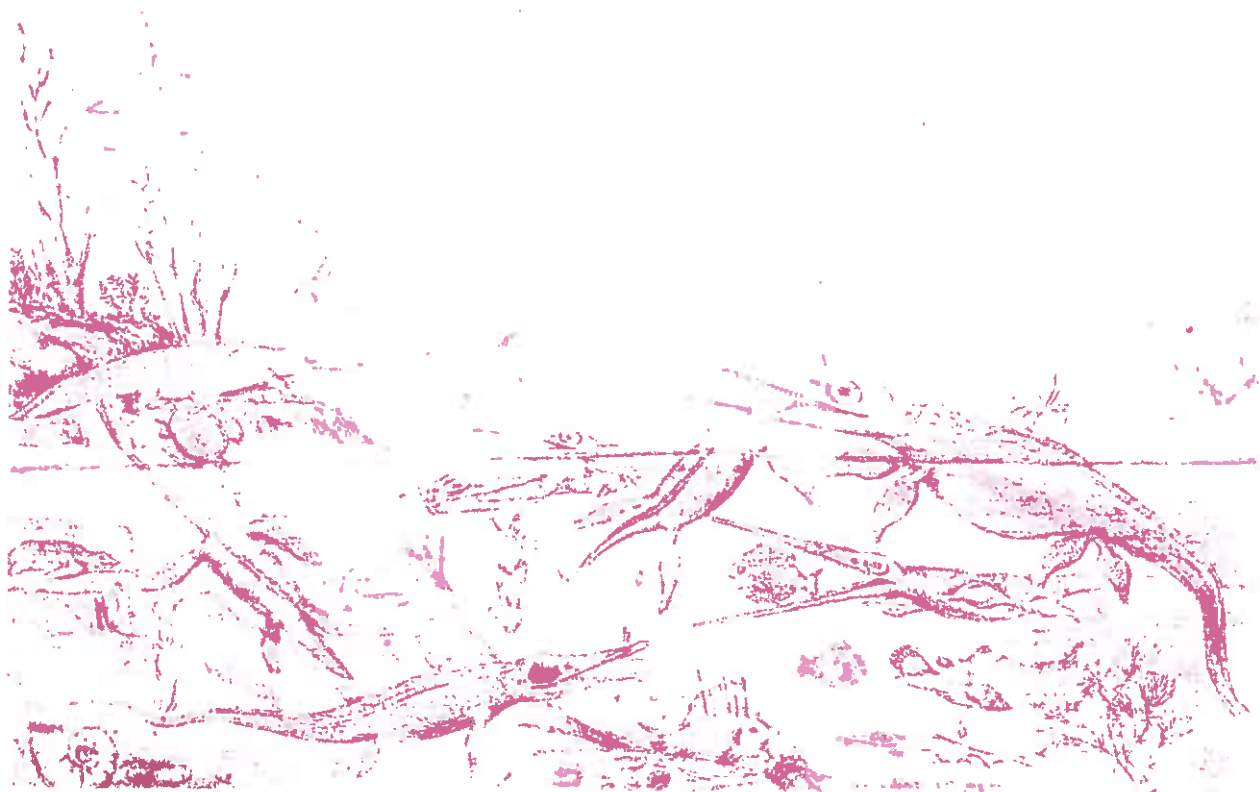


The Land That Time Forgot - Schools Project

Debrief of art workshops

Workshops devised and led by Darrell Wakelam based on the antique sketch 'Duria Antiquior' by Henry De La Beche



The task for all three participating schools was to create 3D artwork based on the fossils and geology of the 'Jurassic Coast' using the famous sketch 'Duria Antiquior' by Henry De La Beche as their inspiration. This artwork would then be used during the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival 2009 as part of the theatrical performance 'Herbie Treehead's Jurassic Underwater Show'.

The lead in to the project was the same for all three schools. I took along some local fossils and gave the children a brief introduction to 'The Jurassic Coast'. I explained to them how fossils are formed and why their local coastline is so rich with fossils and so geologically significant. We looked at a variety of fossil finds and also looked at photographs of larger examples from local museum collections. The children also looked at the 'Duria Antiquior' and discussed its historical importance and relevance to modern scientific theories.



Ammonites

Southwell Primary School

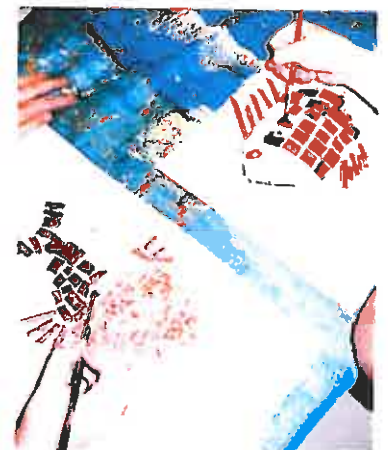
Southwell Primary School
Sweethill Lane, Southwell, Portland, Dorset DT5 2DT
01305 820 794

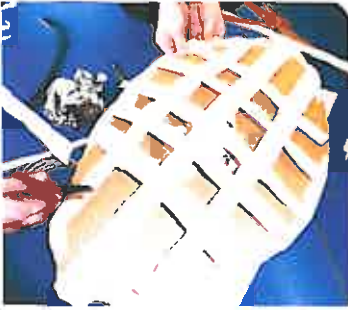
Head - Stuart McLeod
KS 2 - Helen Collings

Workshop dates:
Thu 22nd Jan, Mon 9th Feb, Tue 10th Feb, Thu 12th Feb

Participating Pupils: 25 children from Year 4

Southwell Primary School took the theme of Ammonites and created a variety of different work inspired by them including drawings, collage work and large 3D models. They all worked extremely hard and I was particularly impressed by their teamwork and the way they helped each other during the group work. They seemed to be fascinated by the scientific side of the work and took a keen interest in the introduction session where we looked at some of the finds. The school itself had also got a nice collection of local fossils from the quarry on Portland which helped. I was amazed by the level of detail the children managed to get into their main 3D ammonites which were extremely effective. As extra activities the class also made a large 3D sculpture of a Dimorphodon and they made their own relief fossil fish. Some children mentioned that when they had taken the fish home their parents had been out to buy frames for them, they thought they were so good.





Fossil Fish

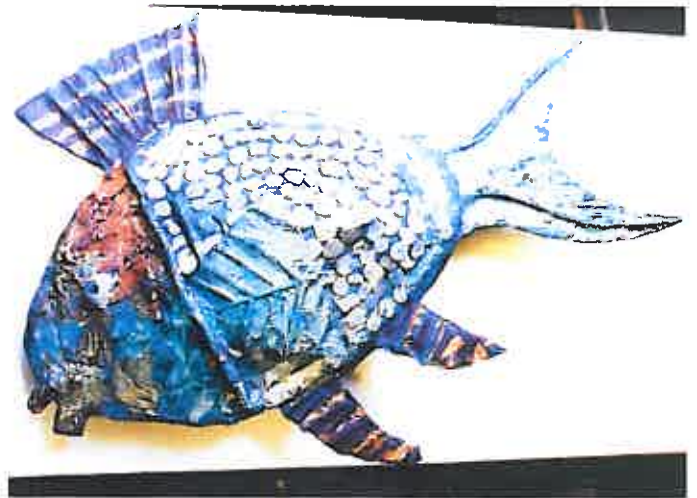
Musbury Primary School

Musbury Primary School
Church Hill, Musbury, Axminster, Devon EX13 8BB
02197 552 687

Head - Clive Salmon
KS 2 - Caroline Cole

Workshop dates:
Tue 20th Jan, Fri 23rd Jan, Thu 26th Feb, Fri 27th Feb

Participating Pupils: 43 children from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6



Musbury Primary School concentrated on 'Fossil Fish', producing both 2D and 3D artwork based on local fossil finds. They also created some relief ammonite sculptures and a large relief Ichthyosaur to put on display. The organisation of the workshops at Musbury was quite difficult as we had all of the Junlor children in one workspace for the sessions, this meant that the children needed to be very organised, both during the workshops and when setting up or clearing away. They also had to help each other as most of their work was done in groups and each group contained pupils of different ages. I was very pleased with the outcomes and the way in which the children approached each stage of the project. They were enthusiastic and coped well with some quite complex and time consuming techniques. Many of them did drawings at home and brought them in for me to see and others bought fossils from home which they had found and wanted to share with the other children. They were all very excited at the thought of their work being used as part of the performance and were very much looking forward to the show.





Ichthyosaur

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Lyme Road, Axminster, Devon EX13 5BE
01297 32785

Head - Mr. Mark Brown
KS 2 - Patrick Germscheid

Workshop dates: Thu 5th Mar, Fri 6th Mar, Thu 19th Mar, Fri 20th Mar

Participating Pupils: 31 children from Year 5 and 6

St. Mary's Catholic Primary created a huge 3D sculpture of a fossil Ichthyosaur. As this class were all year 5 and 6 children I chose them to do the most complicated piece. They began by each making individual bones, vertebra and teeth out of cardboard and foil which were then covered with paper maché. Then, working in small groups, they constructed the skull, paddles and other large bones. All of these pieces were then fitted together to make the skeleton which was then painted and sponged to give the appearance of rock. The children also created some 3D fossil fish so that they had something to keep and display at school. I also did two workshops with the younger children, a quick ammonite workshop with the year 2 children and a dinosaur mask making workshop with the year 3 and 4 pupils. Again, I was very impressed by the technical ability of the children and their teamwork and cooperation. The skeleton was a very complicated model with hundreds of different pieces and the fact they managed to finish it with time to spare shows just how hard they worked.

