

Joan Wiffen and the dinosaur fossil

This task is about how to work like a scientist

Joan Wiffen is famous because she found dinosaur bone fossils in rocks in a New Zealand river. She looked for fossils for fun, but she had to think and work like a scientist before she found the dinosaur fossil.



What to do

1. In your group read and talk about Joan Wiffen. What might she have done to work like a scientist?
2. Your teacher will give your group 2 sets of cards.
3. Match the cards to finish the sentences.
4. On your task sheet put the sorted cards in the right place on the chart to match the ways scientists work.
5. Talk about your answers in your group.
6. Write your answers to the 2 questions under the chart.

a) Task sheet:

How scientists work	How Joan did this
They start by learning about what people already know.	
They know what to look for.	
They look carefully.	
They think about what they see.	
They check with other scientists.	

- b) Do you think Joan Wiffen had a better chance than most people of finding a dinosaur fossil?
 Yes / No (Circle one) Why or why not?

Cards and words for matching (Activity A)

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She knew what sorts of _____ might have fossils in them.	When she wasn't sure she _____	One way Joan Wiffen learnt about dinosaurs was from _____	She saw that the fossil looked different from the other _____ she had found.	She thought it might be a _____ fossil.
dinosaur	rocks	fossils	asked a scientist	books