



Crazy Creatures

Charnia masoni

Charnia was one of the very first complex living things on our planet. It is so old no one knows what it really was, how it lived or what it ate!

Charnia was named after the forest it was first found in - Charnwood forest in Leicester! It was discovered by a teenager called Tina. Charnia lived on the sea floor and captured tiny bits of food that drifted past on the current.

Time: 600 million years ago

Period: Ediacaran

The Mystery

Your task 1: Draw Charnia! It had:

A round "foot" that held it to the sea floor

A long stem

Lots of thick "leaves" along the stem to capture food

A pointy "leaf" on top

Your task 2: Charnia was discovered by a teenager out on a walk. When you next go outside can you spot six different living things?

Creature Fact!

Charnia might have grown by adding segments of itself from the top – nothing grows like that today!

Your task 3: Do you think Charnia looks more like a plant or an animal? What are the differences between the two?

Your task 4: Charnia lived deep under the sea where light didn't reach it. This is called the **Benthic zone**. Can you name three other deep sea animals alive today?

Your task 5: Charnia is in a group of living things called the **Vendobionta**. Vendobionta are unlike animals alive today because they are not symmetrical down their middles, unlike us! What kind of **symmetry** is this?

Your task 6: Charnia was a very unexpected find but was discovered because of the sharp eyes of a teenager! Can you do some research to find four good places to look for fossils?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Research key words:

Ediacaran
Early Life
Precambrian

CRAZY-O-METER

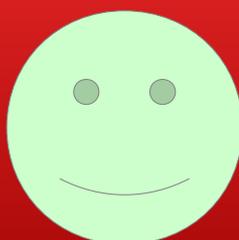
How weird do you think this creature was?



Boring!



Yeah Ok



A bit weird



Really weird!



Woah!



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