



# Sue Hendrickson: Fossil Hunter



by M. Lee



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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BOSTON

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Printed in China

ISBN-13: 978-0-547-02546-9

ISBN-10: 0-547-02546-7

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 SDP 15 14 13 12 11 10 09 08

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## The Fossil Hunter

Sue Hendrickson looks for fossils, which are signs of plants or animals from long ago. Some people call her a fossil hunter. Many people know about Sue because she **discovered** a famous fossil.

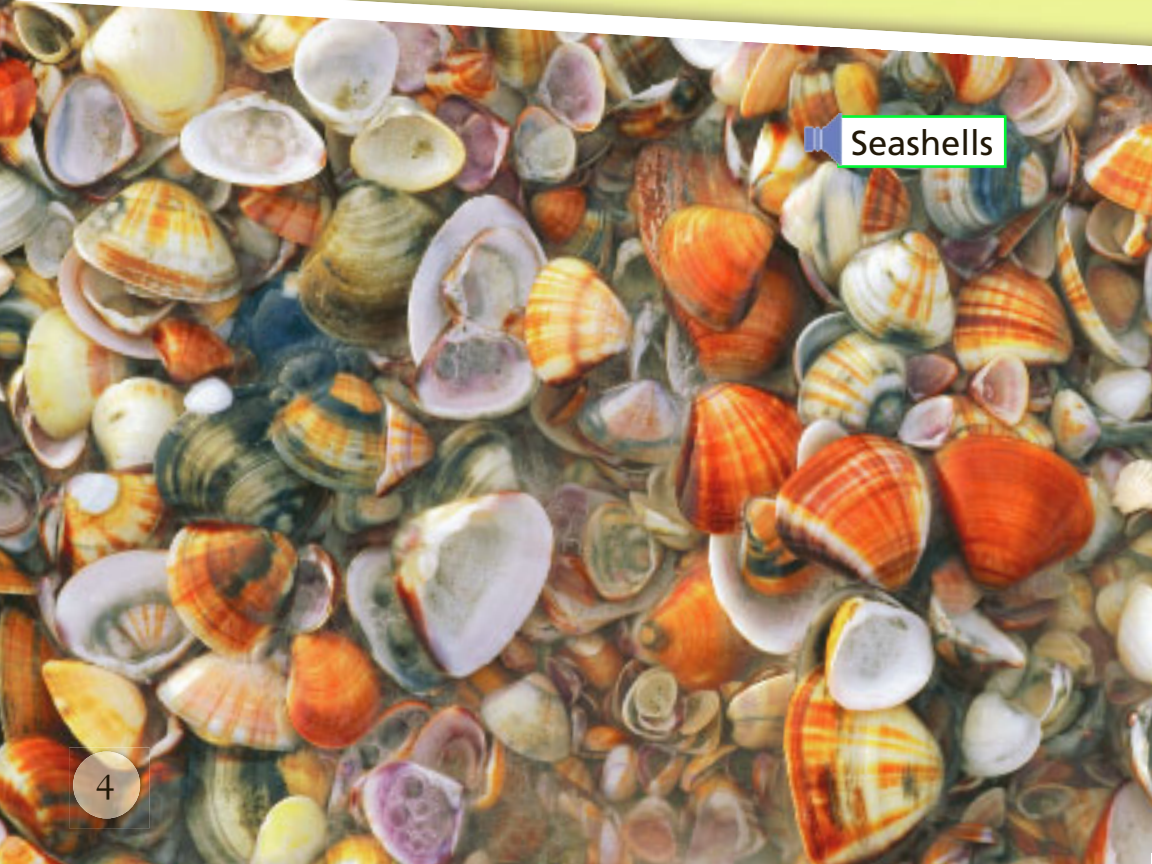


Sue Hendrickson

## Young Sue

Sue was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1949. She had an older brother and a younger sister. Sue loved to read and go to school.

When Sue was a girl, she started to dig in the dirt and look for interesting things. Sue picked up many pretty seashells.



 Seashells

When Sue got older, she started working. One of Sue's jobs was to look for fish in the sea. Sue was a good swimmer. Sometimes she looked inside sunken ships, which are ships at the bottom of the sea.

Sue looked at sunken ships in many different places. In one place, Sue learned about amber, a sticky liquid inside trees. Sometimes insects get stuck in amber and become fossils. Sue learned that some of these insect fossils are millions of years old! Sue wanted to look for other fossils.



## Looking for Fossils

Sue started looking for fossils with another fossil hunter. They went to a country called Peru. In Peru, Sue and her friend found fossils of whales, dolphins, and seals.

Then someone asked Sue to help look for fossils in the United States. Sue said yes. She worked with a team of fossil hunters in South Dakota for three years.



Fossil



🔊 In South Dakota, Sue and the other fossil hunters looked for fossils in many cliffs, or rocks next to the water. At last it was time to leave, but there was one cliff Sue still wanted to see. Sue went to the cliff. The other fossil hunters stayed behind.



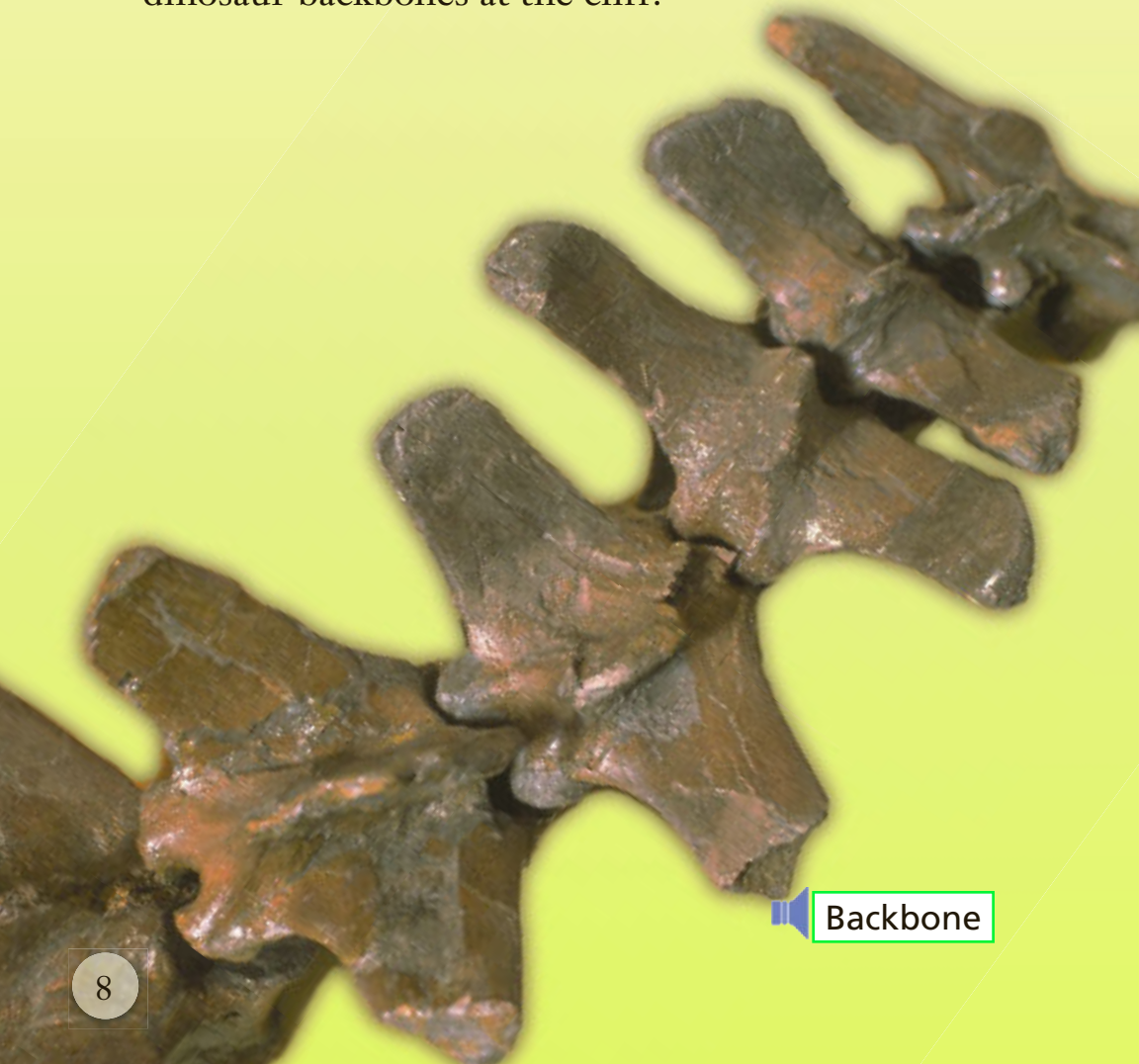
🔊 Cliffs

🔊 River



## A Dinosaur Skeleton

Sue and her dog walked to the cliff. Sue did not know the **exact** spot to search, so she looked all around the ground. Then she saw some bones. Sue was very excited! Maybe she shouted out loud. Maybe her dog **growled**. There were three dinosaur backbones at the cliff!



 Backbone

🔊 Sue and the other fossil hunters used special tools to **remove** the rocks and dirt around the bones. They worked for three weeks. At the end, the team looked at the bones. They were **amazed!** The bones belonged to a dinosaur skeleton. It was a dinosaur called a T. rex. The fossil hunters decided to call the dinosaur Sue!



🔊 In 1997, the Field Museum in Chicago bought the dinosaur bones. People worked for a long time to clean the bones and put them back together.

🔊 In 2000, the museum put Sue's skeleton on display. The skeleton is about as long as a school bus. Like the insect fossils, the dinosaur skeleton is millions of years old. Most dinosaur skeletons are missing many bones, but Dinosaur Sue has more bones than any other T. rex skeleton! The museum **guards** Dinosaur Sue carefully.

🔊 If you go to the Field Museum, you can see Dinosaur Sue. The people at the museum will **explain** all about T. rex dinosaurs. At the museum, you can buy a dinosaur **souvenir**, like a shirt or a book, to help you remember Dinosaur Sue.



## Sunken Ships

In 1992, Sue Hendrickson started doing something new. She worked with a team of people to look for sunken ships. The team found an old ship called the San Diego. First, everyone worked to take lots of sand and rock off the top of the ship. Then Sue and the team found things like jars, gold, and silver coins inside the ship.



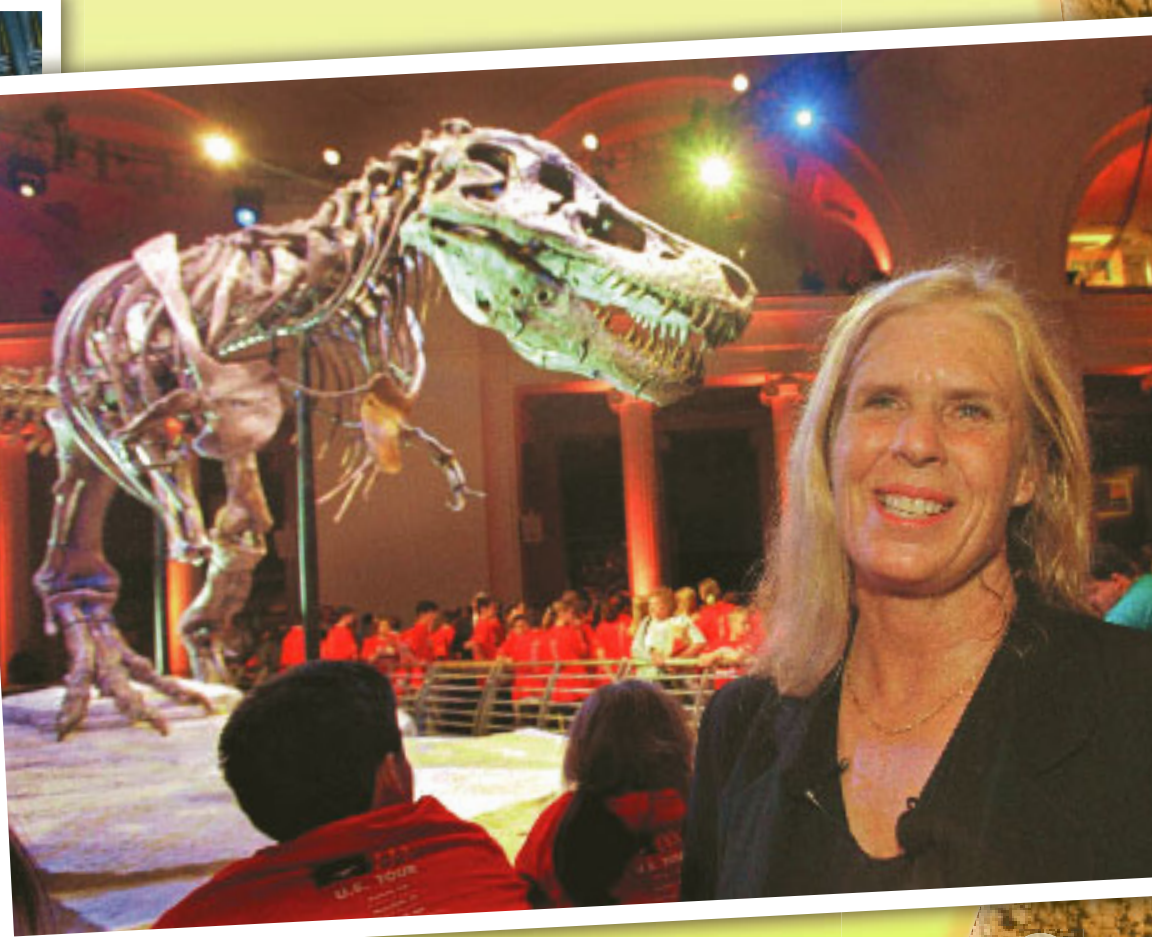
🔊 Sue and the team worked together for a long time. The team found many sunken ships with interesting things inside them. Sue and the team found things like coins, pots, and tools. Sue was excited about everything she found.



🔊 Coins


## Conclusion


Sue Hendrickson loves her job. She loves looking for fossils and sunken ships. Sue is happy every time she finds something new!



# **Glossary**

 **cliff** a rock that extends along a coastline

 **skeleton** bones that form the body of a person or an animal

 **souvenir** something that reminds you of a place you have visited

# Responding

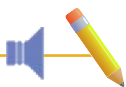


## TARGET SKILL

### Fact and Opinion

What facts did you learn from this book? Copy this chart. On one side write facts that you learned about Sue Hendrickson. On the other side write your opinions about Sue.

Facts	Opinions
Sue finds fossils. ?	? ?



## Write About It

**Text to World** Sue Hendrickson looks for fossils and sunken ships. Write a few sentences telling your opinion about why her work is important. Tell what we can learn from her. Include details in your answer.





### TARGET VOCABULARY

amazed

discovered

exact

explained

growled

guard

remove

souvenirs



### TARGET SKILL

**Fact and Opinion** Tell if an idea can be proved or is a feeling.



### TARGET STRATEGY

**Question** Ask questions about what you are reading.



**GENRE** A **biography** tells about events in a person's life.

**Level:** L

**DRA:** 24

**Genre:**

Biography

**Strategy:**

Question

**Skill:**

Fact and Opinion

**Word Count:** 671

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ISBN-13: 978-0-547-02546-9

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