

William Smith

William Smith (March 23, 1769 - August 28, 1839) was an English geologist. He was born in the village of Churchill (Oxfordshire, England) on March 23, 1769, into a family of farmers. Deprived of his father before the age of eight, he depended on his father's older brother, a farmer in Norton; download little conventional education. At the age of eighteen, in 1787, he found work as an assistant to Edward Webb, a surveyor. He was a quick learner, and soon became an expert. In 1791, he traveled to Somerset to survey the valuation of a



The William Smith Medal is a medal of the Geological Society of London, awarded for outstanding research in applied or economic geology. It was first awarded in 1977. It is named after William Smith.

He became the first person to map the geology of an entire nation. Not only was this scientifically significant, but in the process he produced something rather beautiful.

Smith's colourful and sophisticated geological map was based on his astute observation that rock layers (strata) could be identified by the fossils they contain.

He noticed that the layers always seemed to appear in the same order and realised it was possible to predict where specific types of rock could be found across the country.

Smith's map and ideas paved the way for a better understanding of geological time and laid the founding principles for geological surveys worldwide. His concept of using fossils to identify rocks is still very important today.



