

# Talking Points: Anna Atkins

This collection of videos and sources will help you explore the work of Anna Atkins.

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AGES 5-8

AGES 9-11

AGES 11-14

AGES 14-16

FREE TO ACCESS

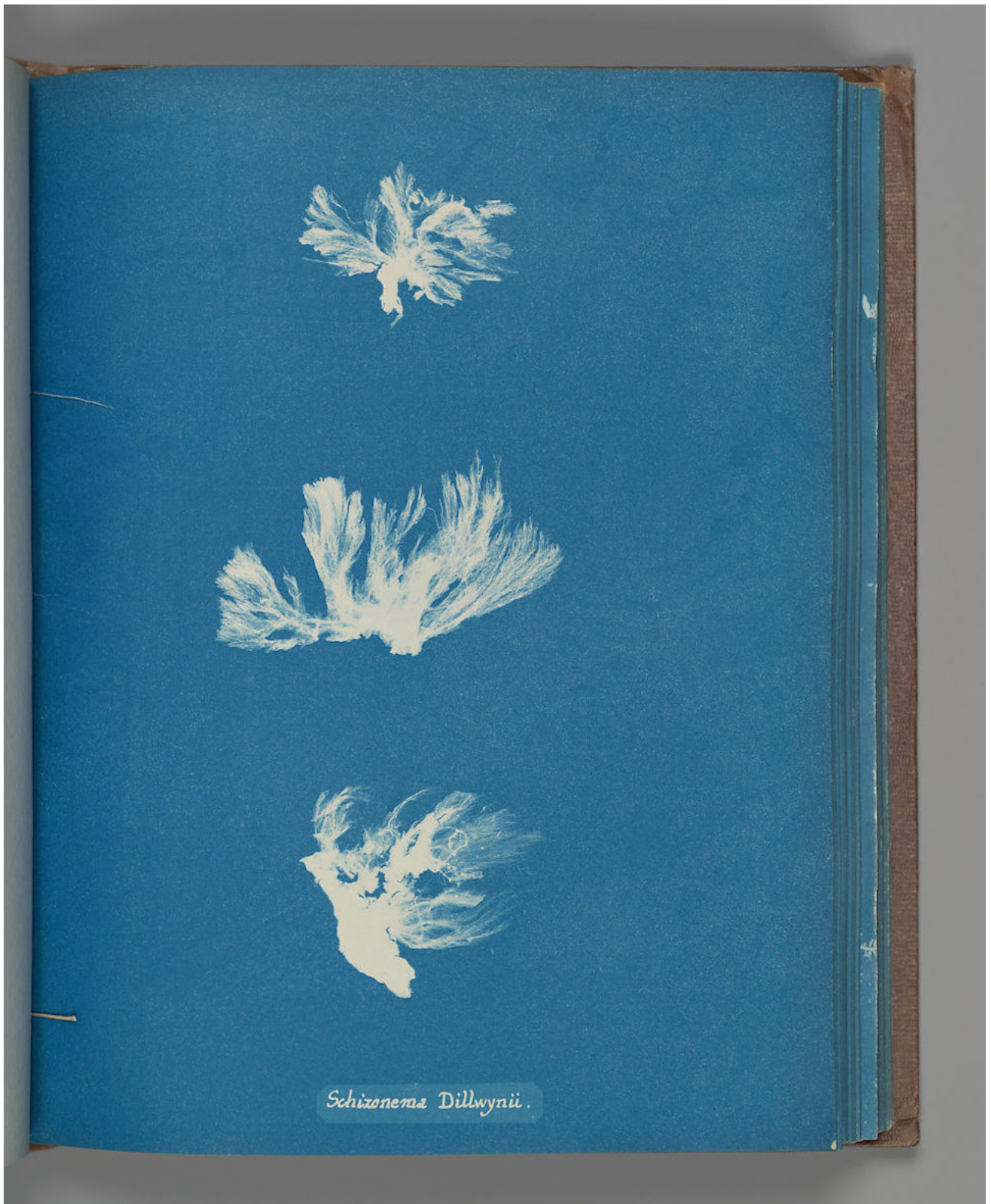
## Anna Atkins

Anna Atkins was a botanist and photographer in the 1800s. She is considered as the first person to publish a book of photographs.

The process she used was called cyanotype. This used light exposure and a simple chemical process to create blueprints of botanical specimens.

To read more about the invention of photographs explore this [Google Arts and Culture resource](#).

Explore the images and sources below and use the questions to inspire classroom discussion.



**Schizonema Dillwynii** by Anna Atkins, Gilman Collection, Purchase, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation Gift, through Joyce and Robert Menschel, 2005





*Spiza arvensis*  
(Tyrol.)

**Spiraea aruncus (Tyrol) by Anna Atkins, Purchase,  
Alfred Stieglitz Society Gifts, 2004**

## **Questions to Ask Children**

**What do you like about these images? How are they different from photographs you see today?**

**Can you think of a plant/flower that would create an interesting cyanotype?**

**Can you draw the outline of an Oak leaf? What about a Holly leaf?**

## **This Talking Points Is Used In...**

**Pathway: using natural materials to make images**



This is featured in the 'Using Natural Materials to Make Images' pathway

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



Show me what you see

