

Stone Age Cave Paintings



twinkl

Cave Paintings

Most cave paintings were of animals or hunters. A cave could be full of many paintings by many different painters. Many hand stencils have also been discovered.

They used natural colours from mineral pigments.

Some of the most impressive cave paintings have only been found in the last 100 years. There could be more out there we don't know about!

Cave Paintings

This cave was discovered in 1880 in Spain. The carbon dioxide breathed out by visitors who were eager to see the cave paintings caused damage to the paintings and the caves were closed.



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Lascaux Cave

This Cave is located in France. It was discovered by children in 1940. This picture shows a recreation of the cave in a museum.

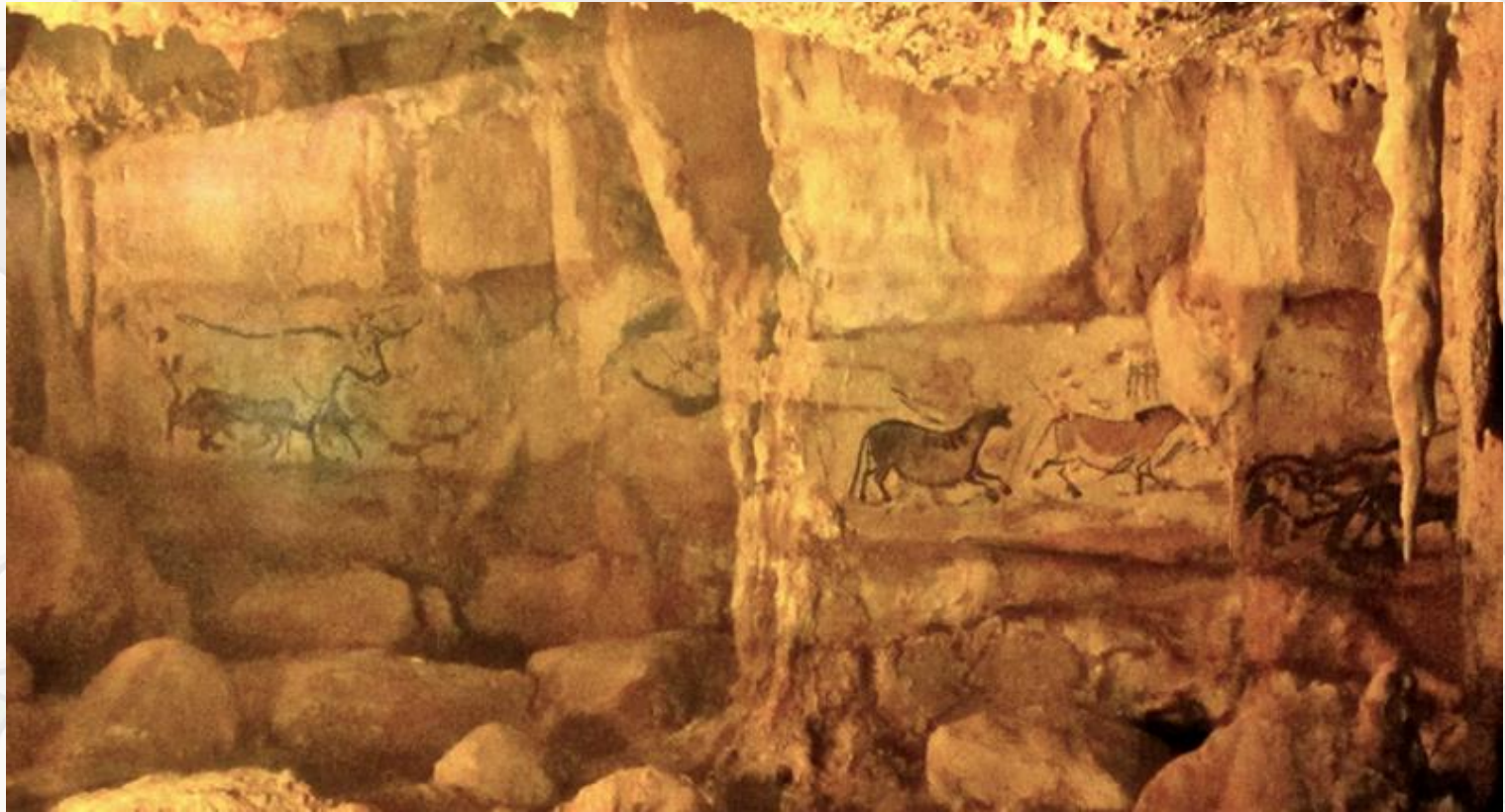


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Magura Cave

This cave is located in north-western Bulgaria. Bones from different prehistoric species of bears and hyenas have been discovered in the Magura Cave. Some of the paintings decorating the walls date back to the Neolithic period.



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Chauvet Cave

Located in Southern France. In addition to the paintings and other human evidence, the three **speleologists** who first explored it also discovered fossilised remains, prints, and markings from a variety of animals, some of which are now extinct.

Speleology = the scientific study of caves



Hand Stencils

Cave Paintings around the world often include hand stencils, impressions left by blowing paint around the hand.





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Cuevas De Las Manos (Cave of the Hands) in Argentina



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Task:

You are going to have a chance to sketch your own cave painting!

Have a look back at the cave paintings and have a think about the colours that were used.

REDS

ORANGES

BROWNS

THICK BLACK OUTLINES

Have a think about what most of the cave paintings are showing.

They show a number of different animals.

Have a look at these different symbols of animals and try to use them in your cave art sketch.

Petroglyphs - African



Petroglyphs - Australian



Petroglyphs - European



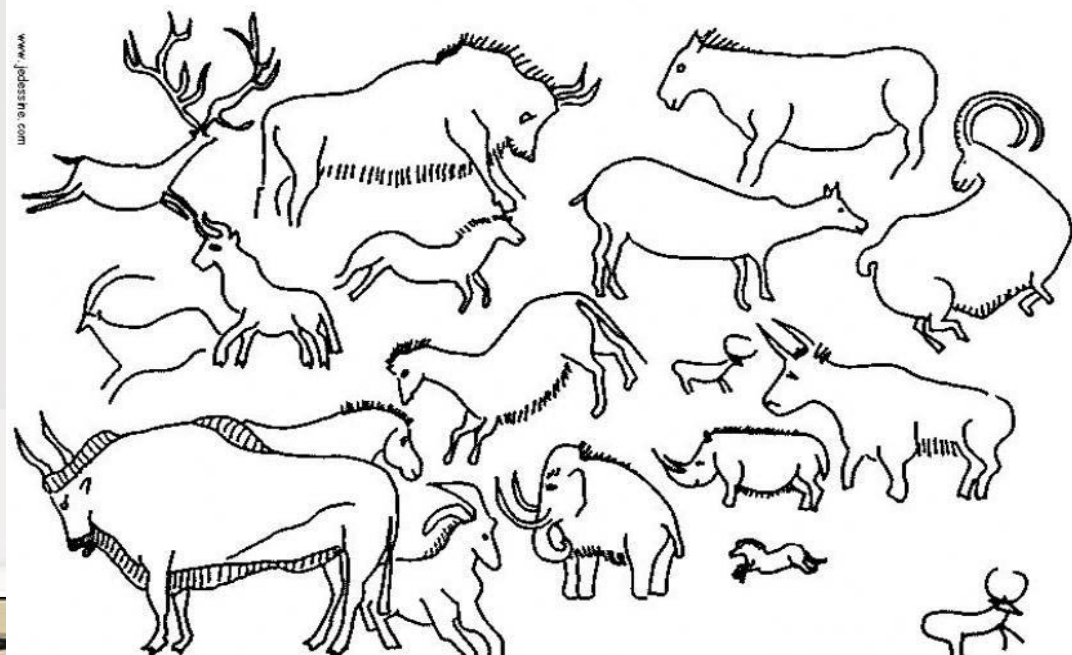
Petroglyphs - North American





Here are some more pictures of different animals that you can use to help you.

Why do you think there are animals in these pictures that look unfamiliar to us?



You can sketch your cave painting here. Remember to take your time and to be creative!