



In today' lesson you will be learning all about the cave paintings and creating your own. This lesson links really well to our Stone Age topic in History. Read through the slides and complete the activities as you go 😊 Enjoy!



**Look carefully at these pictures:**

What do you notice?

What would you like to ask?

How do you think the paintings were created?

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.



Photo courtesy of GOC53 (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution

# Lascaux Cave

This Cave is located in France. It was discovered by children in 1940.

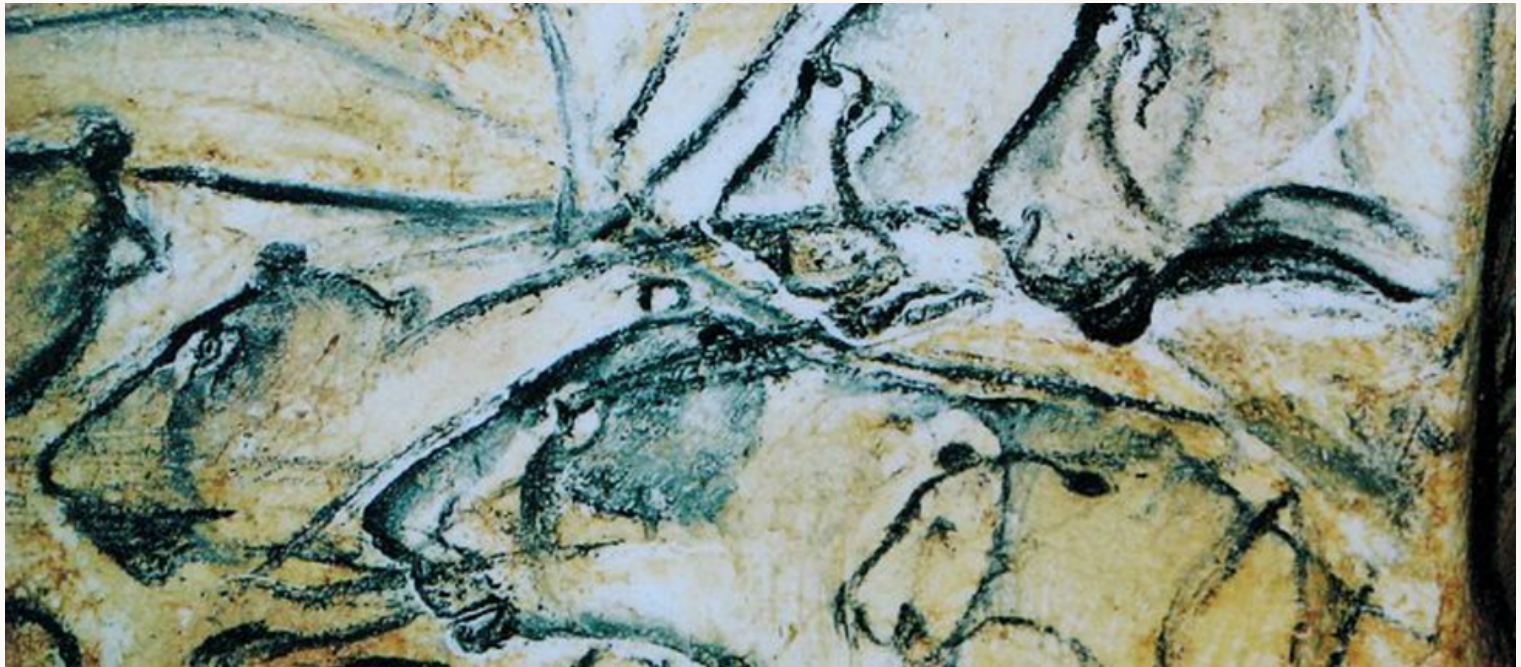
This picture shows a recreation of the cave in a museum.



# 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



# An important source

Remember that the Stone Age was a period of history before we had written or photographic records of life.

**Why do you think cave paintings are so important to historians for learning about life in this time?**



# Why was cave art created?

Historians are still not entirely sure why people in the Stone Age created cave art, although lots of people have different theories about it.

**Below are some possible answers. Which one do you think is most likely? Why?**



**To  
decorate  
the  
caves**

**To  
communicate  
a message to  
other people**

**As part of  
a good  
luck  
ritual  
before a  
hunt**

**To keep a  
record of  
events  
like  
important  
hunts**



## Activity: Create your own cave painting

Use my ideas below to help you 😊

There are some examples on page 11 to help you too 😊



1. Create your own background for your picture using coffee. If you can't do that just do your cave painting on white paper 😊  
*You could also use crumpled up brown paper.*



2. Have a close look at the cave art in this PowerPoint. Decide what you are going to draw. Animals? Hunters? Weapons? Hand prints?



3. Using pencils, crayons, paint, draw out your design onto the paper.

Think carefully about the colours you are using.

Use colours like brown, black, orange, yellow, red.

There are some links on the website to some useful videos to help you to draw Stone Age animals 😊

Examples:



**Optional task:** Have a go at making your own paint.  
Check with an adult before you do this and only do it with their permission 😊



## Mud Paint

### Ingredients

Mud  
Powdered paint, liquid paint or food colouring  
Water  
Card  
Washing up liquid

### Equipment

Paintbrushes  
Bowl



### Method

1. Collect a bowlful of mud from the garden. If it is quite dry add water to the mud.
2. Check the mud for living creatures such as worms and return them to the garden before adding anything else.
3. Divide the mud into how many containers you like – decide what colour each batch of mud is going to be.
4. Sprinkle in your powdered paint or choice of colouring.
5. Add a small amount of washing up liquid.
6. Mix together the mud, colouring and washing up liquid.
7. The paint is then ready for the children to use where ever they choose outside. It may just be on the card provided or on the trees, pavement, fence etc.

I hope you enjoyed this activity 😊  
Over the next few weeks, we will be doing  
different art activities all linked to the Stone Age.  
Have fun!

I would love to see your cave paintings 😊. Please  
send your work into  
[yearthree@st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:yearthree@st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

