

## Cave Painting Lab

**Setting:** Can you put yourself in the mind of a boy of a few thousand years ago who is brought, blindfolded and terrified by ritual, into the most secret and sacred of caverns of the clan? After days of fasting and hunting practice, tomorrow he will be allowed to hunt the big beast itself with the rest of the warriors. Finally the blindfold is removed in a room ablaze with light, and there, glowing on the wall is the very image of the great beast!

There is no need to explain the image to the boy. It is so much a part of existence that this icon holds a special significance. Perhaps there were not yet a thousand words in the vocabulary of the clan, but this picture is worth the equivalent in that young boy's life.

Directions: Using the links listed, research cave painting. Write out answers to all of the questions on the right side of your spiral notebook. Be sure to investigate all of the web sites. BE PREPARED FOR A GRADED CLASS DISCUSSION.

## Cave Painting Links

### **Caves in France**

<http://www.culture.fr/culture/arcnat/chauvet/en/gvpda-d.htm>

Flashy site with some good material and some pictures.

<http://www.lascaux.culture.fr/mobile/contenu.php?fichier=00.xml>

You need to wait for this one to load. It can be slow.

[www.ariège.com/niiaux](http://www.ariège.com/niiaux)

### **North American Cave paintings**

<http://www.sbnature.org/research/anthro/chumash/pcart.htm>

<http://alumnus.caltech.edu/~randysal/chumash.html>

### **Altamira Caves - Spain**

[http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=31&id\\_site=310](http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=31&id_site=310)

<http://vm.kemsu.ru/en/palaeolith/altamira.html>

<http://www.showcaves.com/english/es/showcaves/Altamira.html>

### **General Information on Cave paintings**

<http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ab20>

### Questions- (answers do not have to be in complete sentences)

- 1) In what part of the cave are the paintings generally located?
- 2) What do researchers think is the importance of the location of the art?
- 3) What animals are shown in the paintings?
- 4) What are they doing?
- 5) What do researchers think is the meaning of the choice of animals painted?
- 6) What activities are shown in the paintings?
- 7) Are humans shown in any paintings? If so, what are they doing?
- 8) Are any man-made tools shown in the paintings? If so, what are they and for what were they used?
- 9) How did the cave painters see while inside the cave?

- 10) Where did they get their paint? What colors were most prominent?
- 11) How are the cave paintings found in Spain different from the ones found in France?
- 12) Why are the North American paintings younger than the ones from Europe? (think migration!)