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## Art Masterpiece: *Black Bull* at the Lascaux Caves

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**Keywords:** Art, Texture, petroglyph

**Grade:** K- First Grade

**Activity:** Stone Age Art



### Background of the Lascaux Caves in France:

In 1940, children and their dog accidentally found a cave. The children were playing fetch with the dog. The ball they were throwing was accidentally thrown into a complex underground cave. Looking for the ball in this cave, they found wonderful cave paintings on the walls. These walls had drawings of animals, people, and handprints on them. People believe this is the beginning of art. Scientists believe that the handprints were their signatures.

Who were these first artists? Cavemen lived some 30,000 years ago. By the light of oil lamps, prehistoric artists drew the wild animals that they hoped to capture. Using charcoal, they traced the outlines of bison and mammoths on the cave walls. For paint the cavemen ground lumps of earth into colored powder. They would then spread this powder with leaves or use wads of fur for a paintbrush.

Petroglyph: An image that is carved or chipped into the rock using another stone or other tool, or may be painted on a rock using hand-made paints and brush tools.

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### Possible Questions:

- Why would people draw thousands of years ago? (Personal story-telling, hunting, war, maps etc.)
- What did the cavemen draw on?
- What did they draw with?
- What colors do you think the cave artists used? (black, brown, gray, yellow, orange-earth colors)
- Can you think of how they may have created these different colors?
  - Black may have been charcoal from their fire.
  - Red/purples from berries they would smash together.
  - Yellow/ oranges from spices.
  - Browns from clay or earth.
- What do you think the surface of a cave wall feels like? (Texture.)

- How did the cavemen sign their art?
- **SHOW Video that accompanies this lesson. ( a reference of hand print in video will make art project more meaningful.)**

### **Activity: Prehistoric CAVE painting**

**Supplies needed:** brown paper lunch bags (or brown craft paper/brown butcher paper), pencil, crayons or oil pastels. Black paper (for mounting), glue stick.

**Optional Step: Addition of student hand print.** White paint, paper plates, sponge paint brushes, wet wipes and paper towels. See optional step #10 in process below.

Be sure to have black paper large enough to add child's hand print. See project photo below. Suggested 12 x16". 1/student.

**Enhancement:** *Students can get a feel for early cave wall-painting by doing their project with minimal light just like cave artists from long ago. Turn the classroom lights off, add some random flash lights to cast shadows and conduct your project time. Fun memories!*

#### **Process:**

1. Hand out black construction paper and artist bio. Have students glue the bio to the back of paper. Set aside.
2. Give each child a brown paper bag. Their first step is to create their cave rock wall.
3. Have the students tear open a brown paper bag and rip a flat portion of the bag so they have a large flat section. This piece should be approximately 8x10". Discard the rest of the bag. Students can continue to rip the edges of the paper so that they appear uneven and rough looking.
4. Once satisfied with the size and shape of their paper they will need to create a rough, dimensional rock wall appearance. Students should rumple the paper up into a loose ball and then lightly smooth it out on their desk. Repeat process till desired affect is achieved. Tell the students that they are creating the TEXTURE for their paper wall.
5. Next, on the whiteboard or under the Document camera illustrate how to draw a simple animal (bison, deer, bears) out of easy shapes. Starting with their pencils, have them draw the body of an animal. An

oval is perfect; tell them like a jelly bean. Have them add a neck, head, legs, horns, tails, etc. Instruct to keep drawing SIMPLE.

6. Outline their animals with black or brown crayon.
7. Have them fill in the animals so they are bright and show nicely. Demonstrate examples of other petro glyph symbols on the whiteboard to assist the students with their designs. (sun, clouds, spears, arrows, mountain, stick people, camp fires, etc.) Direct students to add just a couple of additional petroglyph symbols of their choosing to their cave wall.
8. Distress the wall: With a brown or black crayon have students LIGHTLY rub over their wall drawing using the side of the crayon/pastel. Give extra care to darken the edges. This distressed look will make their cave wall drawing appear old and weathered. Demonstrate this technique.
9. Have students mount their 'Cave Art' with glue stick onto black construction paper.
10. OPTIONAL: Students may add their hand print as another form of their signature. The lesson video discusses the discovery of a hand print of a small child on the cave wall. Please show video. Mount cave art onto over-sized black construction paper and then assist the student by painting their hand with white paint and guiding their hand print onto the black paper. See photo example.
11. Use wet wipes and paper towels for easy hand and desk clean-up.



Shown with optional student hand print. See step 10 in process.



Chandler Unified School District Art Masterpiece



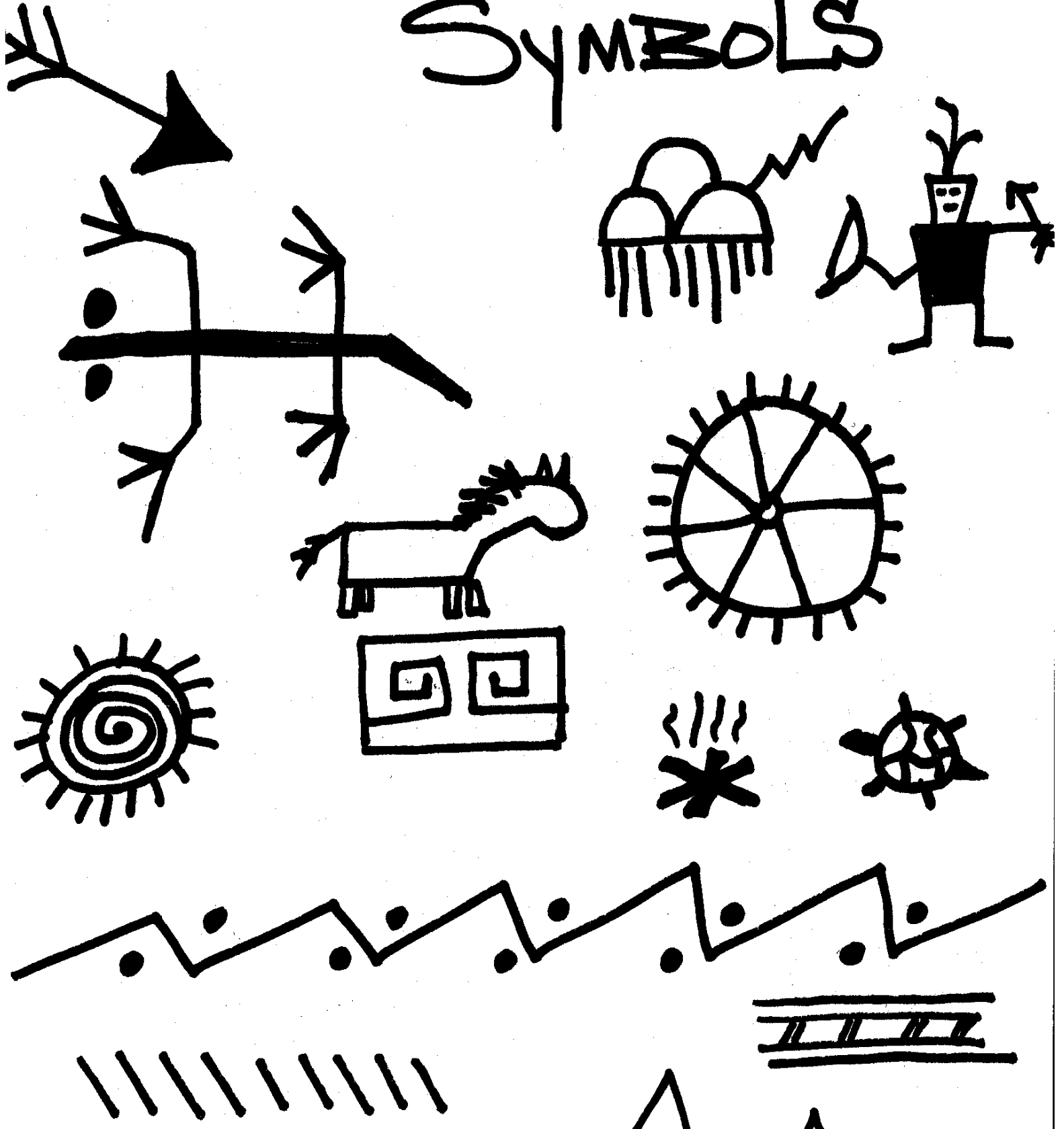
Chandler Unified School District Art Masterpiece

# SYMBOLS

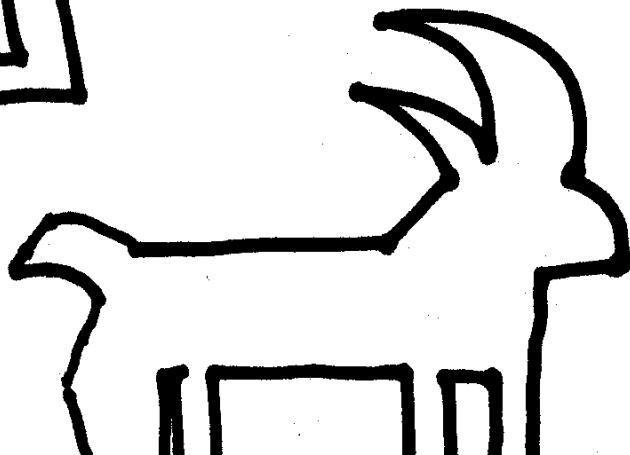
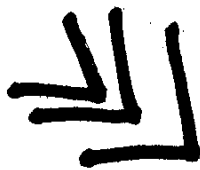
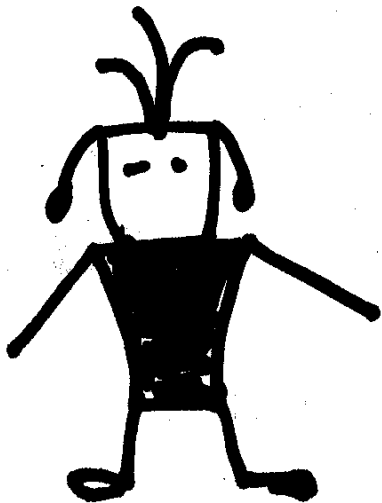
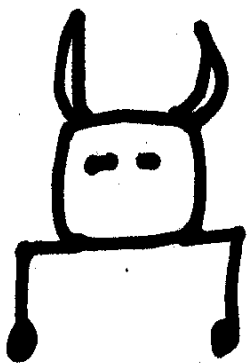
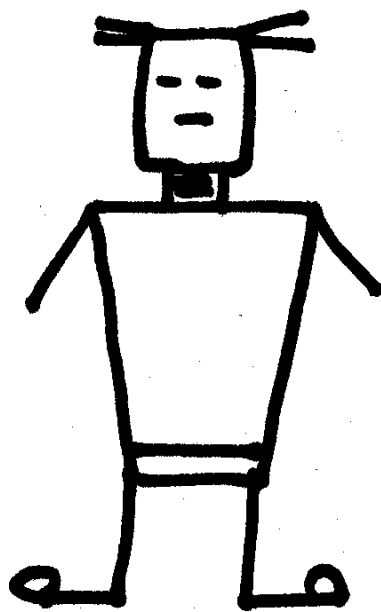
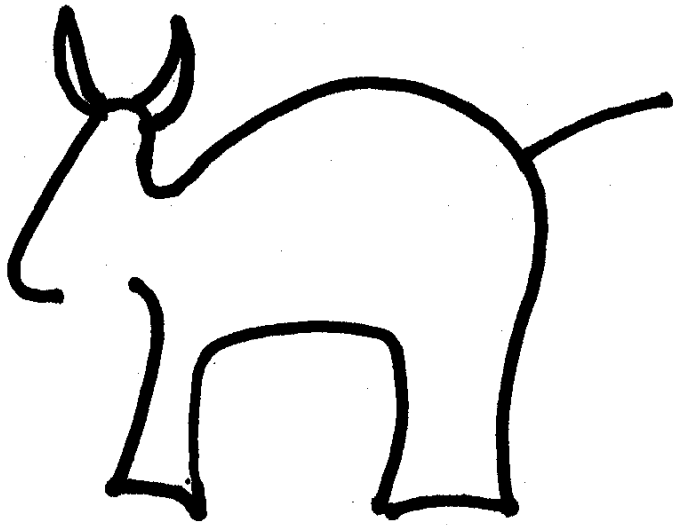
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	MAN life		HORSE journey		BIG MOUNTAIN great abundance		THUNDERBIRD unlimited happiness
	CROSSED ARROWS friendship		ARROW protection		LIGHTNING swiftness		BROKEN ARROW peace
	WATER HOUSE		HEADRESS ceremonial		KOKOPELLI flute player		CHILD fathers pride
	TEEPEE temporary house		HOGAN longtime home		RAIN plentiful crop		EAGLE FEATHER chief
	CACTUS sign of desert		PATH crossed		GECKO sign of desert		SUN happiness
	RAIN CLOUDS good prospect		THUNDERBIRDTRACK bright prospect		DEERTRACK game plentiful		SEASONS winter summer spring fall
	DAYS-NIGHTS time		PEACE PIPE ceremonial sacred		WATER RUNNING constant life		MOUNTAIN RANGE destination
	SUN RAYS constant		BIRD free of worry		BEAR strength		ARROW alertness
	SNAKE defiance		BEAR PAW good omen		OAK TWIG summon the holy		EAGLE freedom

# CAVE ART SYMBOLS



# CAVE ART





**Parent Letter**

Brief info about the artist: Who were our first artists? Cavemen lived some 30,000 years ago. By the light of oil lamps, prehistoric artists drew the wild animals that they hoped to capture.

Brief info about the project: Students can get a feel for early cave wall-painting by doing their own chalk drawings on hand-made textured paper walls done with minimal light just like cave artists from long ago.

Picture of artwork



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