

Autumn 1: Cave Paintings

Lostwithiel Primary School

Year Three

Overarching theme for the year -
The Role of Art in Ritual and Ceremony

Art Knowledge Organiser

Beech Tree Class

Prior Learning: In Year Two, the children will have learnt how to mix and use tertiary colours and make different tones of colours. They will have experimented with using brushes in different ways. They will have practised creating texture by adding dots and lines and used repeated patterns in their designs.

Key Art knowledge and skills:

- Cave painting is one of the earliest art forms, with some paintings dating back from 10,000 BC.
- Art historians believe that cave paintings were a way of recording a hunt or used in a ceremony or ritual to bring success in a hunt. Indigenous Australian cave paintings tell the creation stories of dreamtime.
- Paint was made from mixing natural substances such as blood, ochre from rocks, charcoal and animal fats.
- The images and techniques, such as blowing paint through hollow sticks or bones, can be used as a stimulus for modern painting.
- In this kind of ritual and ceremonial art, abstract symbols are often used to represent objects or animals. For example, circle images in Indigenous Australian art represent campfires or meeting places.
- Sketch books are an important way for artists to record their observations and practise techniques and effects. Sketch books are reviewed and revisited by artists as a way to plan their work before they begin a final piece.
- Visual information for sketch books can be collected in a variety of ways and using a variety of media. For example, by sketching cave animal images, mixing paints to create an earth coloured palette or experimented with lines and dots to create different effects.
- Ideas can also be collected by using a digital camera to capture patterns of lines, dots and examples of natural colours in the school grounds.
- The quality of lines are a key element in cave paintings. They can indicate movement of animals and heavy charcoal or black pigmented paint is often used.
- Modern artist charcoal is made from burnt willow sticks. It can be used to create very definite, heavy lines or smudged with fingers or tissues to create a softer effect.



Key Art Vocabulary -

General Terms and Cross Curricular Vocabulary

pigment	A coloured powder which can be natural or artificial. It will become paint when it is mixed with a liquid such as water.	definite	A clear line which is not vague or suggestive. A definite line is often used to outline shapes.
earth palette	A range of colours used in a painting. An earth palette would contain browns, oranges, yellows, reds and blacks.	smudged	A blurred or indistinct line often used in art to give an impression to the viewer that can be interpreted in different ways.
overlapping	The placement of painted objects over one another to give an illusion of depth or a crowd, such as a herd or bison.	abstract	Abstract art uses the visual language of shape, form, colour and line to create non-realistic compositions.
ceremonial art	Ceremonial art is made to celebrate something important in a culture, such as a ritual or a religious belief.	realistic	Realistic art represents objects, people and landscapes as they appear in real life or in a photograph.
symbolic art	The practise of using a symbol in art to represent something else such as an object, person, animal, thought or feeling.	experiment	To try different techniques, usually in a sketch book, to observe their effects and compare them.

Art Outcome



The children will create two final pieces. They will mix paints in earth colours and use it with charcoal to paint a picture of a prehistoric animal seen in a cave

painting, such as a bison, horse, deer or bear. They will also create a class gallery of hands using Indigenous Australian dot paintings as inspiration.



Cross Curricular Links

- ✓ English: Writing stories based on Stone Age Boy class book.
- ✓ Science: Light and shadows- looking at the effects of light in cave paintings.
- ✓ History: The children are learning about the Stone Age.
- ✓ Geography: Maps of Europe to identify significant cave paintings sites, such as Lascaux, France.



Linked documents: [Class Overview](#), [Art Whole School Progression document](#) and [Class Medium Term Planning](#).