

STORYTELLING WITH ART

Blog 'n' Craft Blueprint



Bird-Headed Man with a Bison
Unknown Artist — Pigment on Rock — c.16,000-14,000 B.C.E.

"You don't have to be a caveman to appreciate Lascaux."

— **Walter 'Darby' Bannard**

Meet a group of faceless Paleolithic cave artists — whose identities shall forever remain a mystery! AND have oodles of fun creating your own cool cave art using the same prehistoric palette!

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Art has been around for a very long time and can be traced all the way back to the Paleolithic Age — also known as the Old or Early Stone Age. Scientists consider prehistoric man to have existed long before the Paleolithic Age. Though, this era did mark a significant turning point in human history as man began to develop and use tools in his daily life.

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Made from stone, antler, bone, and ivory — some of these tools helped man record life in the form of cave art. Historically, these drawings are the earliest form of storytelling with art. What's truly amazing is that thousands of years later, these stories have helped modern man to unlock

some of the mysteries surrounding his prehistoric predecessors.

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The word '**prehistoric**' means — *relating to or denoting the period of time before written records, including the Paleolithic Age.* The Paleolithic Age began 2.6 million years ago and ended 12,000 years ago. It was the longest Stone Age period. Millions of years is a long time and difficult to imagine. Can you imagine 2.6 million years? That's a long time!

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One of the most famous collections of Paleolithic art can be found at Lascaux Cave in southwest France. It is a complex of passages and chambers housing well over 600 drawings on interior walls and ceilings. These cave drawings are pretty amazing! As contemporary abstract artist Walter 'Darby' Bannard said about understanding and appreciating art of any kind, "You don't have to be a caveman to appreciate Lascaux."

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From the animal pictures at Lascaux, archaeologists estimate the age of the drawings to be around 17,000 years old. The variety of styles tells them that multiple family members and multiple generations contributed to these stories on the cave walls so very long ago. A generation is a group of people born and living at about the same time in history.

- You could have lots of generations within your family. For instance — there might be young children, including brothers, sisters, and cousins. You would have your parents' generation with aunts, and uncles too. Then, grandparents, great aunts, and great-uncles. If you're really lucky, you might even have great-grandparents in your family! Families come in all sizes. With the possibility for so many people in a family, it's easy to understand how

perhaps a mask; a bird on a pole; and to the left, the partial outline of another large animal.

- And the best thing about this painting is that there is a story being told. It appears to be a hunting scene, in which some type of interaction has taken place between the animals and the bird-headed human figure. The bison seems hurt by the spear, and the human might be hurt as well. Documentation reveals that archaeologists



difficult it would be to determine exactly who drew on these walls. Therefore, the artists remain listed as 'unknown.'

- Although our featured artwork today may not have a known artist, the work itself has come to be known as **Bird-Headed Man with a Bison**. In the painting, look closely to see a bison, drawn in heavy, black lines with bristly fur details; a barbed spear; a less-detailed human figure with a bird head —

remain puzzled by the bird head on the human figure and the bird sitting atop a stick very close to him.

- You have probably noticed that the cave painting is not terribly colorful. Early cave art, including these drawings at Lascaux, were created by the artists using a limited palette of just five colors — black, white, brown, red, and yellow. The colors were all made from the local mineral pigments available to them.

The following fun, hands-on artsy craft is designed to help you feel like a Paleolithic artist! You'll be creating your own cool cave drawing using the same prehistoric palette!

- Before you begin, think about some of your most favorite family stories. Discuss the stories and how to depict them in a drawing. This cave art craft is the perfect way for you to experience storytelling with art!

Cave Art Craft



Create a **Cave Art Craft** for hands-on fun telling a story with art — cave style!

MATERIALS

- Kraft Paper (Brown Paper Bag)
- Scissors
- Black Crayon
- White Crayon
- Brown Crayon
- Red Crayon
- Yellow Crayon



Everything you need to create a **Cave Art Craft**!

DIRECTIONS

Cut a large rectangular piece from the kraft paper. If using a brown paper bag, plan for using a side with no printing.



Crumple the kraft paper — then smooth the paper flat so that you can create the appearance of rock on which to draw your cave art and tell your story.



Now, thinking about your most favorite family stories, create a cave drawing on the kraft paper. Use the black crayon to outline the objects in your drawing; then fill in your objects using white, brown, red, and yellow — all colors similar to the pigments available to pre-historic man.



Remember, the purpose of your drawing is storytelling with art. You want your artwork to tell a story that people will be able to understand thousands of years from today — just like those on the walls and ceilings at Lascaux.



Once you're done, hang your cave art on the refrigerator or wall (or even on the ceiling) and pretend you're a prehistoric cave-dweller, just like the artists who painted our featured artwork named **Bird-Headed Man with a Bison.**

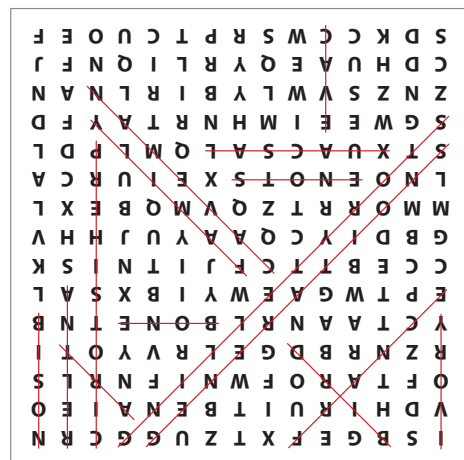


SHARE YOUR CREATIVITY!

Post a picture of your artsy craft on social media using **#fineartfunart**.

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

Antler ✓ Bird ✓ Art ✓ Bone ✓ Cave ✓ France ✓ Lascaux ✓ Ivory ✓ Stone ✓ Storytelling ✓ Prehistoric ✓ Generations ✓ Caveman ✓ Family ✓ Bison ✓




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STORYTELLING WITH ART

Word Search Puzzle Fun

Find and circle all the words listed in the puzzle below, as you test your knowledge of the prehistoric cave art painted by a group of mystery artists at Lascaux, France!

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Bird

Bison
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Cave

Caveman
Family
France

Generations
Ivory
Lascaux

Prehistoric
Stone
Storytelling