



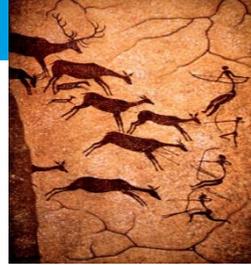
ST. ALBAN'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEAD THE WAY

Yr 3 Art: Prehistoric Art



When did prehistoric art begin?

Stone Age paintings were produced approximately 17,000 years ago, before there were any houses, buildings, roads, cars, electricity or schools!



Why did prehistoric art begin?

To the people of this time, wild animals were their primary source of food and were very important to them. Early humans may have used art as a way of helping themselves in their struggle for survival. Paintings of animals on cave walls are common. Perhaps this was thought to bring success when hunting or may have acted as a call for help from a spirit world the people believed in.

Where can we find prehistoric art?

Paintings were made deep within caves, not near the entrance where people lived. Flickering lamps would have created an illusion that the animals were alive. Artists used the natural curves and shape of the caves in their paintings. Early people also knew how to carve and they made small statues and carvings of animals and humans.

How did the people create prehistoric art?



People from the Stone Age didn't have access to paints, so they had to use natural objects to create marks and shapes. E.g. crushed berries, burnt wood, plants, animal fats mixed with natural pigments. Stone Age artists also created sculptures from clay, ivory, bone, or carved stone.

Stone Age artists used their fingers, as well as twigs, moss, and horsehair brushes, to dab paint on the cave walls. They also blew pain through bone tubes or reed pipes onto cave walls.

Cave artists ground up coloured rock into a powder. They used yellow ochre and red oxide rocks, as well as charcoal (burnt wood). This powder was mixed to a paste using spit, water, or animal fat, which helped the paint stick to the cave walls.

