

Key Learning

- The Lascaux caves are in **France**.
- Cave art is some of the earliest examples of art that we know of today.
- **Prehistoric** paintings inside the caves were discovered by teenagers in 1940.
- The cave paintings are of animals that would have been around at that time.
- The **Stone Age** artists painted, **engraved** and drew on the cave walls.
- The colours are limited because the paints were made from natural materials available at that time and in that area.
- No one is certain why these images were created in this cave, but some of the animals were **hunted** by prehistoric man.
- The pictures are made up of simple lines and shapes, but they look as good as any drawings or paintings produced today.
- The brushes and paint used were made from **minerals** and resources found nearby.

Year 4/5 Drawing and painting: Cave Drawings



Morda CE Primary School

Facts

In 1940, four children walking with their dog in South-west France came across prehistoric cave paintings.

These are known as the Lascaux cave paintings and they are about 15,000 to 20,000 years old.

The drawings and paintings are of wild animals that were native to France at that time, such as bulls, stags, deer, cows, horses, bison and even a rhinoceros. There are also symbols painted on the walls.

These caves contain about 2000 drawings.

There were no torches or electricity in the Stone Age, so the artists would have used flames to see.

The artists used homemade paintbrushes to paint with, plus their fingers, moss, twigs and horsehair.

The artists used ground rocks of different colours mixed with soil, water and animal fats to create their colours.

Cave art has been found in Asia as well as Europe.

Key Vocabulary

Engrave	To cut a design on a surface.
Mineral	A naturally occurring material (rocks are made of these).
Prehistoric	A time before recorded history.
Stone Age	A time in prehistory when humans used stone tools.

- Picasso visited the Lascaux caves and he was impressed with the drawings.

Famous work



Cave painting, Lascaux, France, 15,000 to 10,000 B.C.



