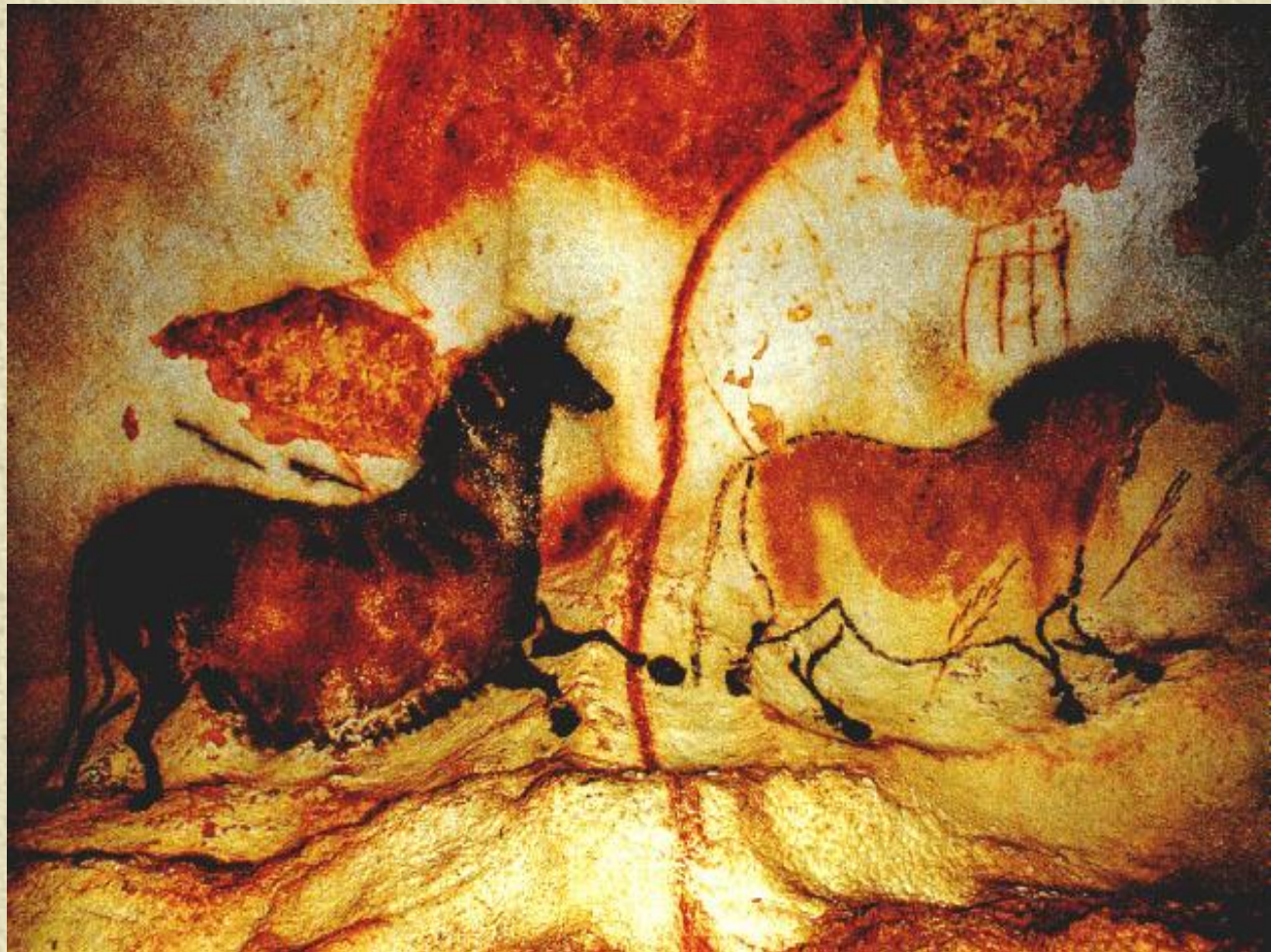


Prehistoric Cave Art



Pictograph:

Painting on a surface like a cave wall.



Petroglyph:

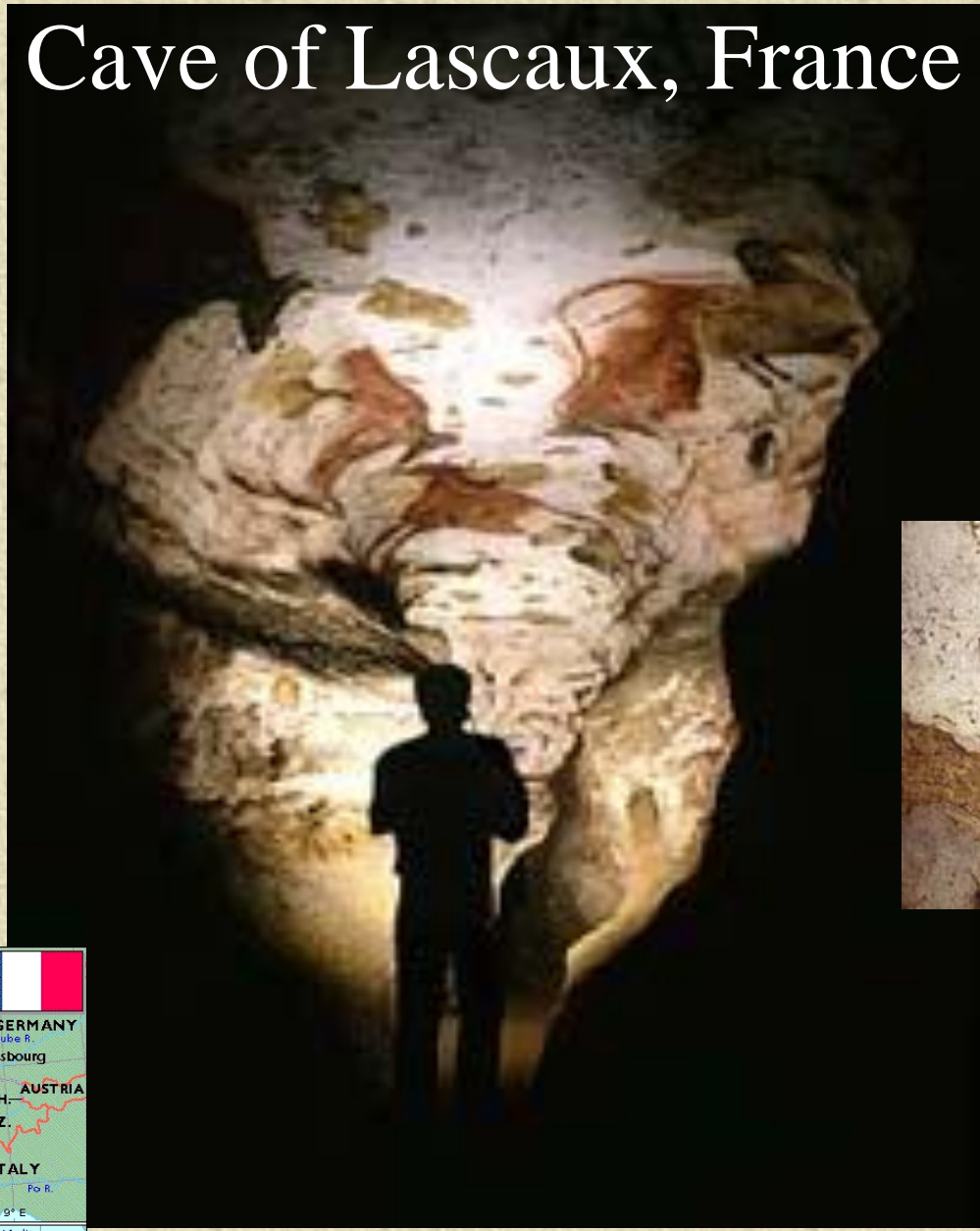
Design carved into rock or other surface.



Why is Prehistoric Art So Important?

- ✦ It demonstrates early human expression of beliefs or actions. In other words, it is evidence of early human culture.
- ✦ It is evidence for our unique ability for symbolic thought, i.e., to use symbols to represent beliefs or ideas.
- ✦ Art sets us apart from the rest of the animals who create things simply to survive; *art is one of the things that makes us uniquely human.*

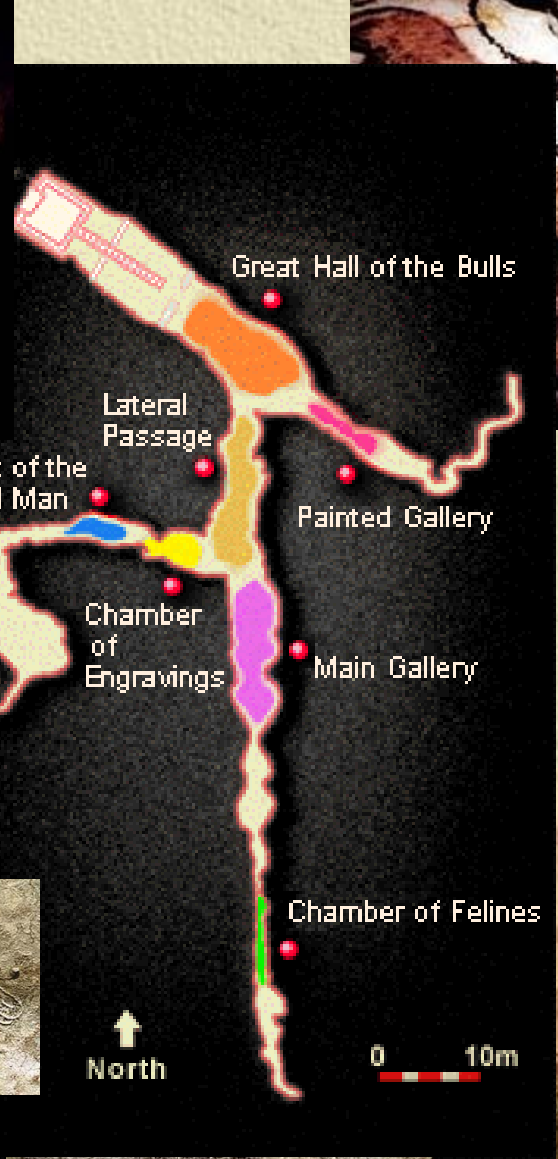
Cave of Lascaux, France



Discovered by four boys in 1940.

Caves are filled with pictographs and petroglyphs that were made about 17,000 years ago.





There are almost 600 pictures of animals, mostly horses.



Other animals painted are stags, bulls, bison, and ibex.



Only one man is painted.

Think about some of these facts.

The caves were extremely dark.

The caves were not easy to access.

The paintings demonstrate amazing artistic talent.

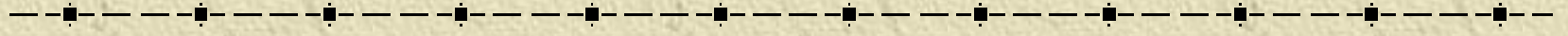
**WHY WOULD THEY TAKE TIME TO PAINT
INSTEAD OF SEARCH FOR FOOD?**



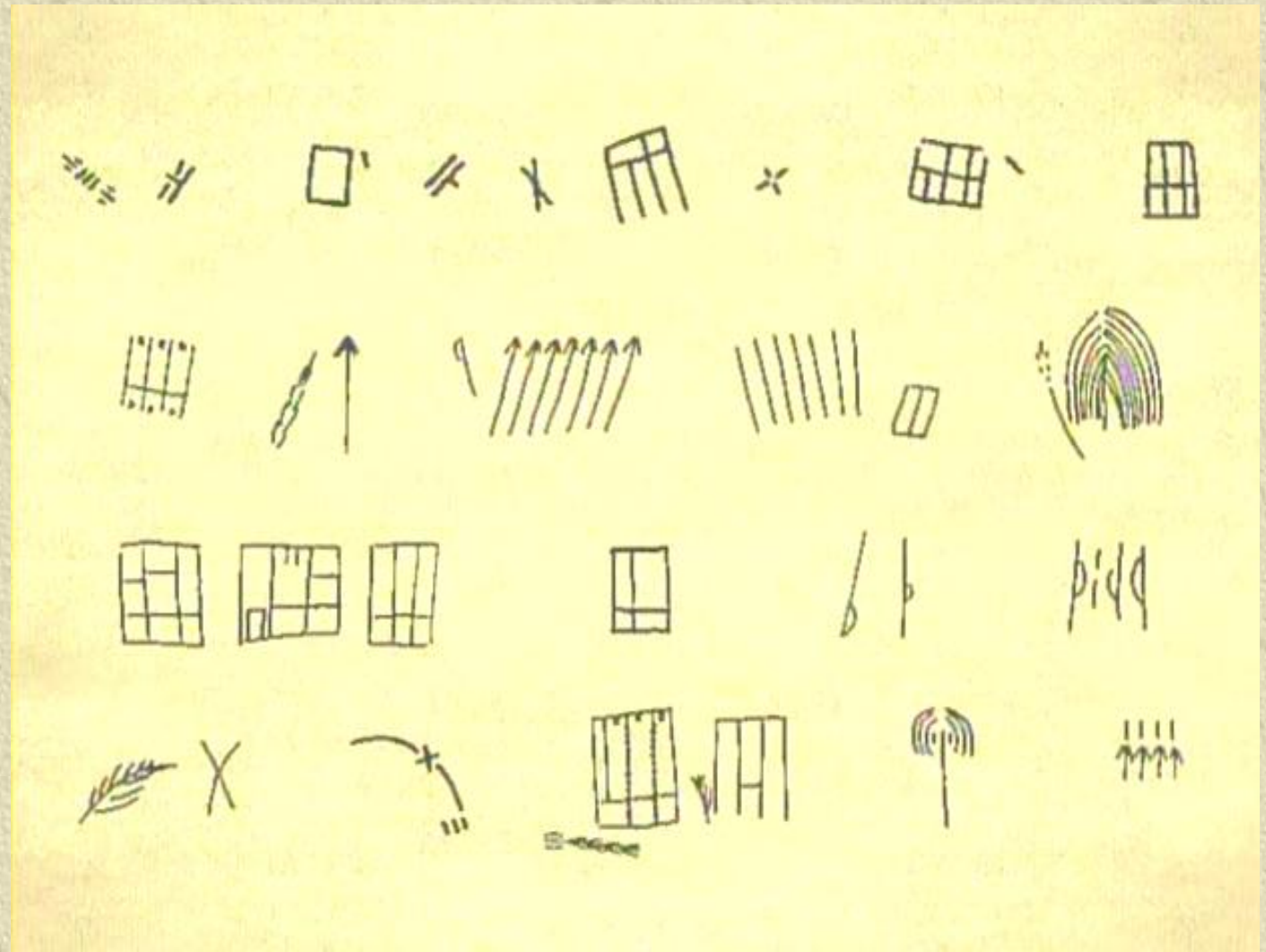
Possible Reasons for Cave Art

- ✦ Decoration?
- ✦ Represent clan/tribe?
- ✦ To mark possession / show ownership?
- ✦ Symbols of opposites, e.g., signs?

Male Signs of Lascaux?

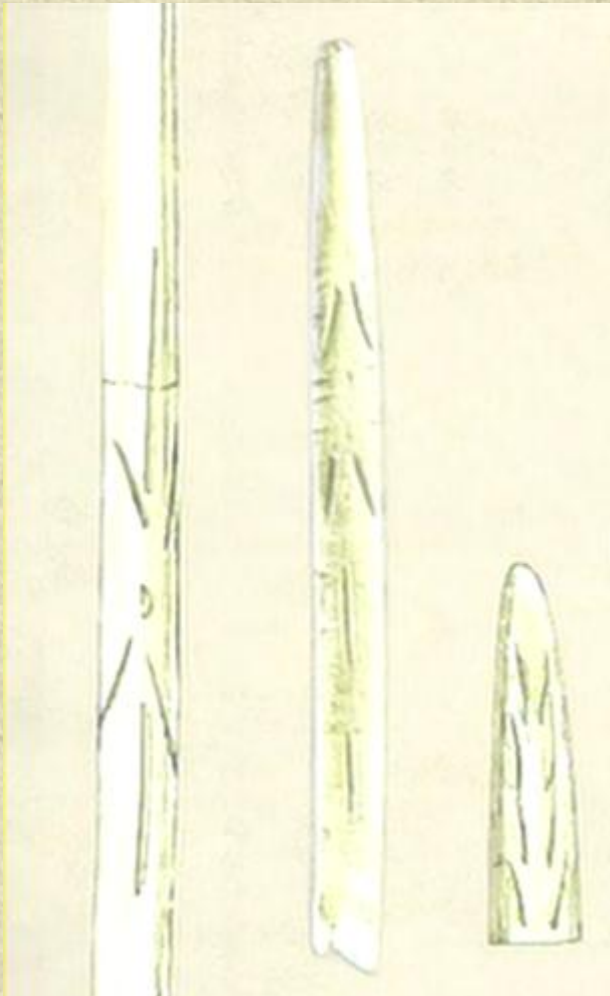


Female Signs of Lascaux?



Signs Found on Artifacts in the Cave Compared to Paintings

✦ Antler tips



- ◆ Does this indicate ownership?
- ◆ Are these tribal marks?

Is Cave Art Evidence of Early Religious Beliefs?



Traditional Interpretations of Cave Art

✦ **Religious/spiritual purpose:** to show a connection/dependence on the animal kingdom?

OR

✦ **Survival:** a kind of “magic” (to hunt or gain the power of the animals)?

The Shaman?

Cave Art = Spiritual Connection to the Animal Kingdom



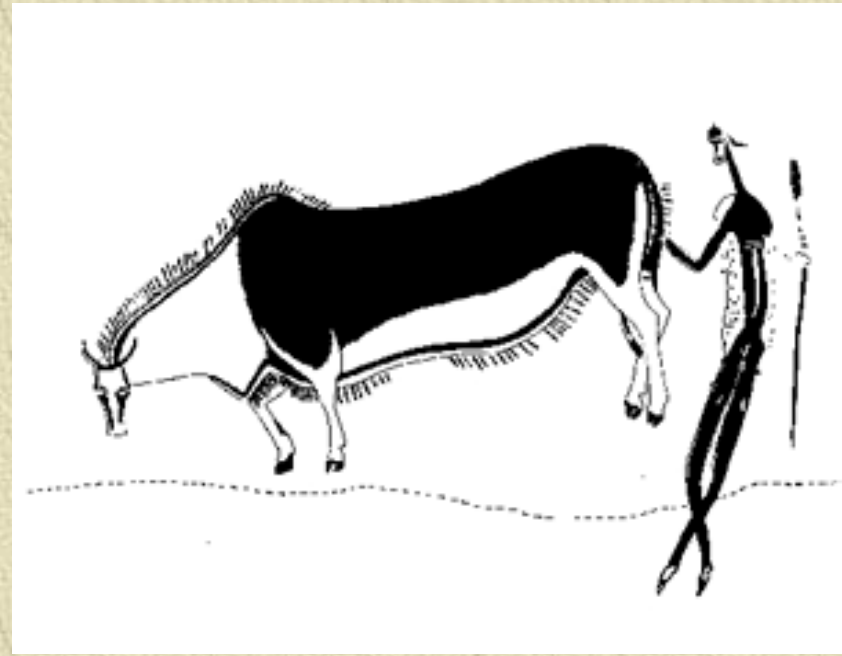
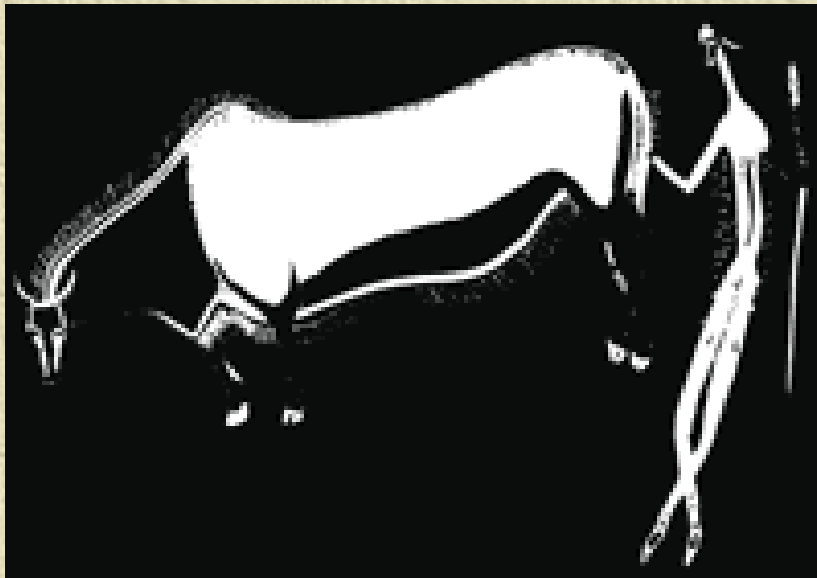
A Hunter? (The Wounded Man)

Cave Art = “Good Luck” or “Magic” to Hunt Animals?



Most Recent Interpretation of Cave Art

- ✦ To express inner visions, dreams, hallucinations
- ✦ To paint what they saw in a **trance**, i.e, **altered-states of consciousness**
- ✦ Animals as “spirit guides,” e.g., in South Africa, the eland and the San shaman-hunter.



Guess the Animal(s) Game

Look at the following cave art from a variety of sources (Lascaux, Chauvet, a few modern interpretations, etc.) and try to guess the kinds of animals that have been depicted. Sometimes there are many animals mixed together. *DO NOT SHOUT OUT THE NAMES!*

Horse



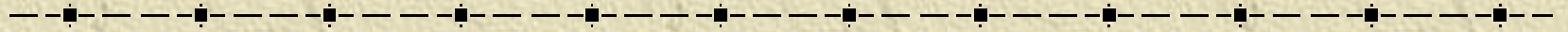
Stag



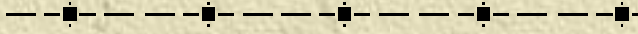
Boar



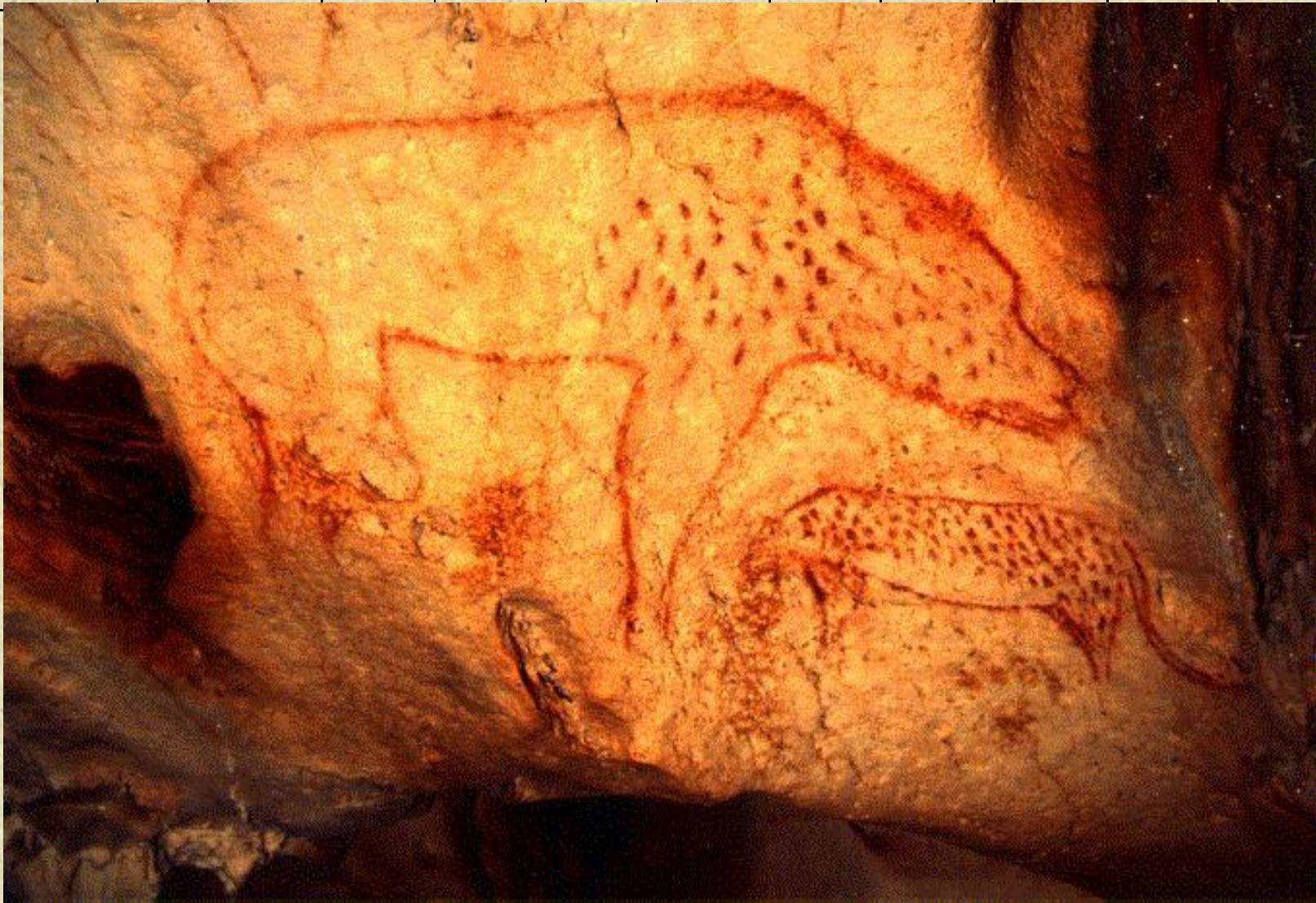
Deer



Owl



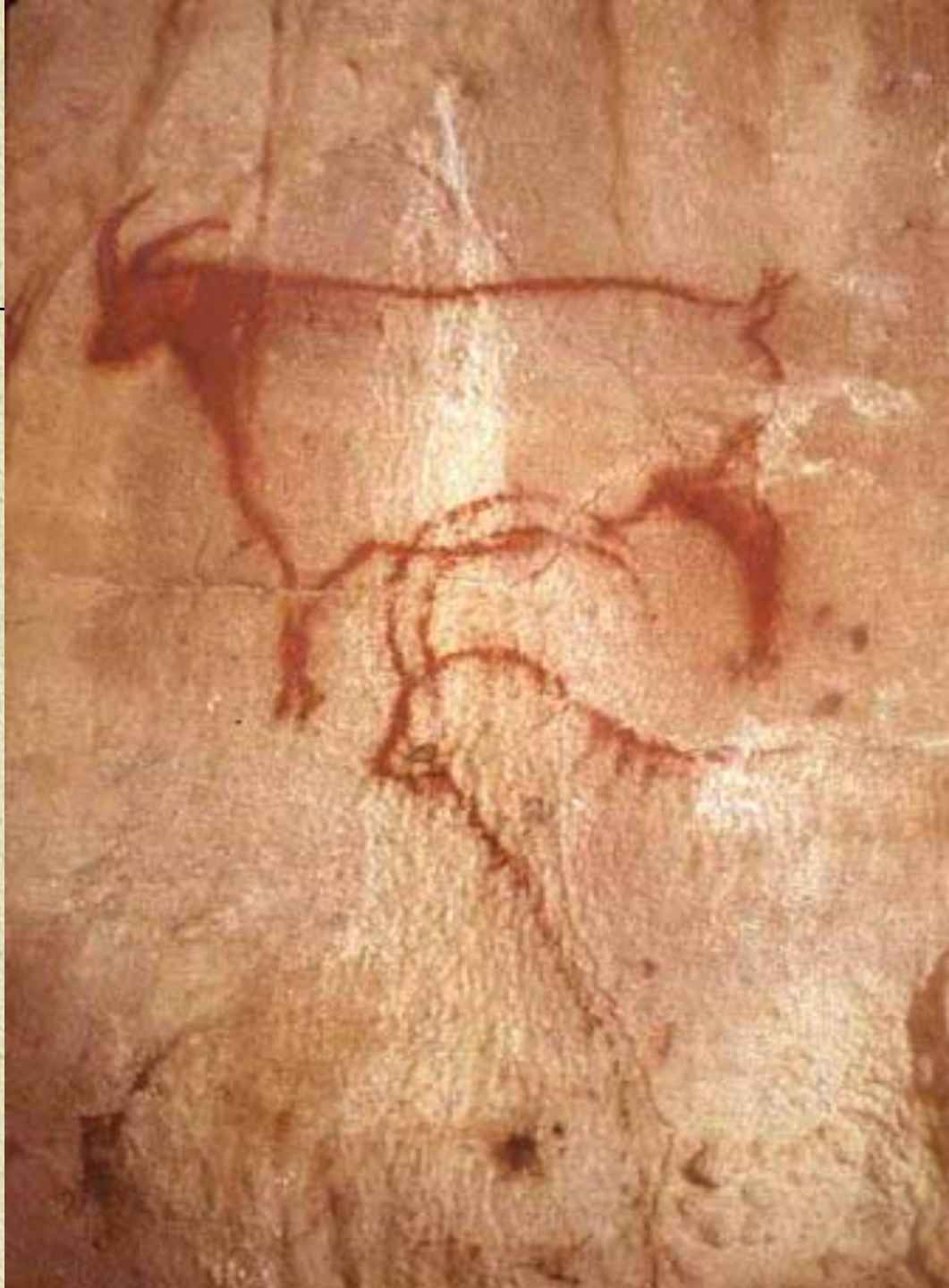
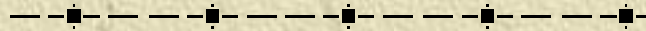
Hyena and a Panther



Mammoths



Ibexes



Bear



Penguins



Bison



Bison – Modern Painting



Horse



Bison

Man

(Sorcerer
of the
Chauvet Cave)



Lions and Rhinos



Horses and Bison



Rhino



Bear



Horses



Wolf – Modern Painting



Hand stencil (Chauvet Cave)





CAVE ART PROJECT



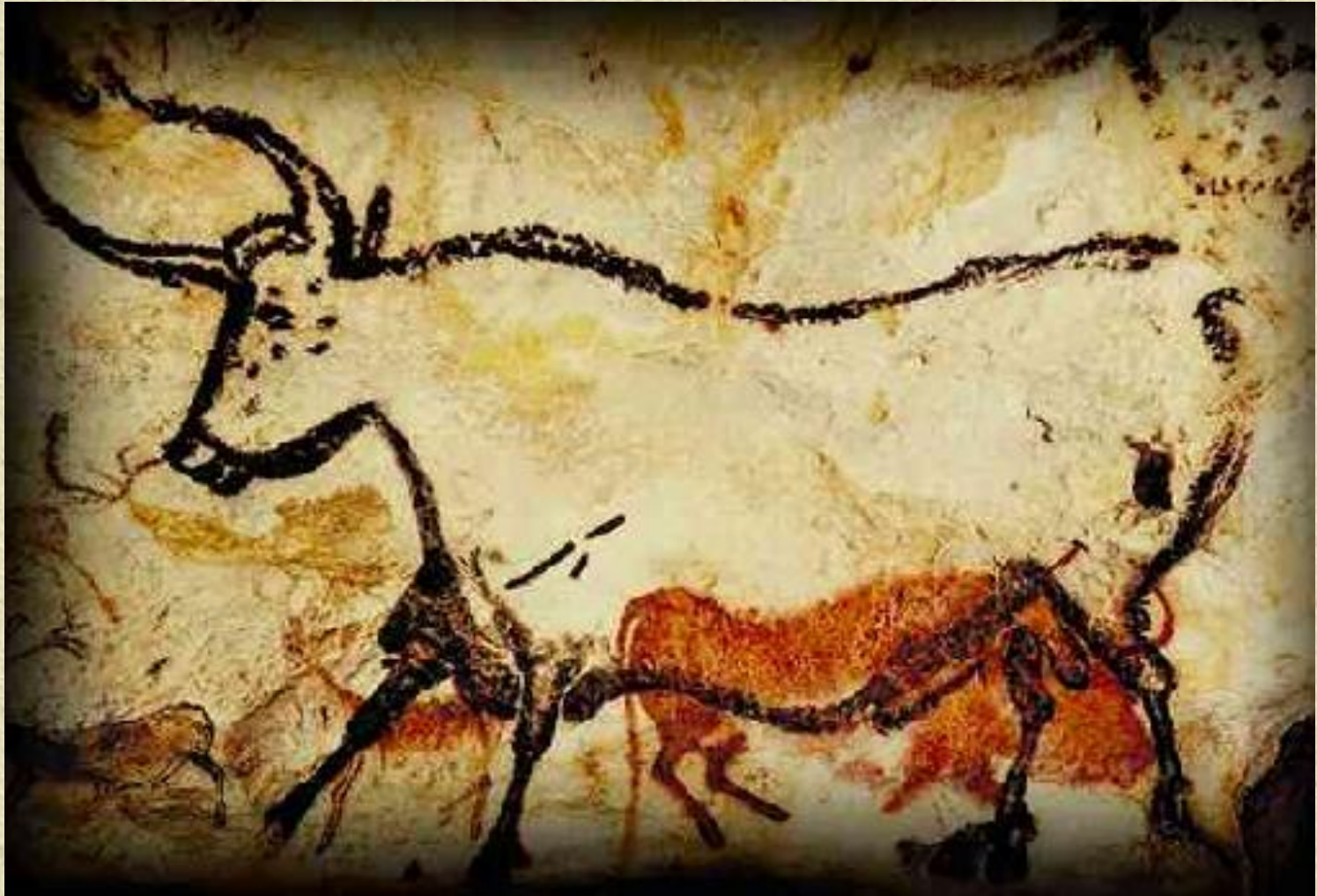
You are going to create your own cave art!

What are some similarities that you noticed in the cave art you have seen?

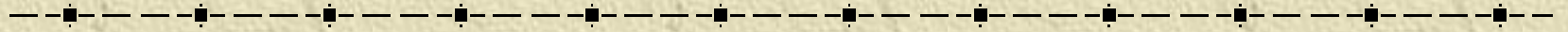
Simple Pictures



Outline Drawings with Shading



What Colors are Used?







Now you will create your own cave art
for a homework assignment.

Remember, art is one of the things that makes us
human.

**FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS
YOU ARE GIVEN!**

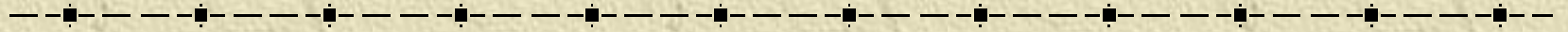
This is NOT Cave Art



References

- ✦ Coy, Fred, Thomas C. Fuller, Larry G. Meadows, and James L. Swauger. Rock Art of Kentucky. University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, 2003.
- ✦ Google Images. 1 December 2005.
<<http://www.google.com/imghp?hl=en&tab=wi&q=>>
- ✦ The Caves of Lascaux. 1 May 2005.
<<http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/arcnat/lascaux/en/>>

References



- ✦ Coy, Fred, Thomas C. Fuller, Larry G. Meadows, and James L. Swauger. Rock Art of Kentucky. University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, 2003.
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- ✦ The Caves of Lascaux. 1 May 2005.
<<http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/arcnat/lascaux/en/>>

THE END

✦ Please note that a small handful of slides for this PowerPoint were taken off the internet and added to by William Jones, the teacher of the Grade 6 Social Studies class, Ancient Civilizations (2007-2013). The references were created by the author of the original short PowerPoint.