

Cave Paintings



DIRECTIONS: Read the article. Answer the questions.

Cave paintings are paintings on the walls and ceilings of very old caves. Cave paintings were done about 40,000 years ago in both Asia and Europe.

No one knows exactly why prehistoric people painted on the inside of their caves. There is no evidence that they actually lived inside the caves where the paintings have been found, and often the caves are difficult to access.

Some of the most famous cave paintings are in France. They are estimated to be about 17,300 years old. The subjects of these painting are mainly animals that are known from fossil evidence to have lived in the area at the time.

Some scientists believe that the paintings were a form of communication; others think that they had a religious or ceremonial purpose. Cave painting around the world are surprisingly similar. Animals are the most common subjects. Humans appear as images of hands made stencil-style, by blowing pigment against a hand held to the wall.

Circle the correct answer.

- True False 1. Some cave paintings are 40,000 years old.
- True False 2. Scientists know why cave paintings were made.
- True False 3. People painted on the insides of the caves they lived in.
- True False 4. There are famous cave paintings in France.
- True False 5. The cave paintings in France have primarily animals as subjects.
- True False 6. One scientific theory is that cave paintings were for communication.
- True False 7. Cave paintings around the world are nothing alike.