

**BIG IDEA: EARLY HUMANS USED PICTURES TO COMMUNICATE IDEAS AND CONCEPTS**

Some of the first examples of art made by humans are found in the caves of **Lascaux**, in modern France, around **20,000 B.C.** The caves were found by some kids playing ball with their dog in 1940. The images were mostly **animals** living at the same time as these Cro-Magnon people who hunted them as food and basic living necessities (bones for tools, hides for shelter and clothes). Life was difficult, few people lived past 50 years of age, yet people still made art to communicate ideas.



## **Cave Images with Meaning**

The images were painted on the cave walls using **moss, mud, berries, charcoal** (all mixed with animal fat) and probably represented at least one of several important beliefs held by the Paleolithic peoples:

- 1) The animals were believed to have **spiritual significance**. The Shaman (holy man) would ask the animal spirit to give assistance to the tribe with a food offering.
- 2) The hunters would **prepare for the hunt** by using the image to get “psyched up” for the trip by throwing spears and rocks at the animals.
- 3) The images may also have been to **record events** and to remember what happened in an effort to communicate with others.

## **Record Your own Existence**

Materials: Found materials from home that wouldn't ordinarily be used to make art. (Examples may include; Make-up, food coloring, dry food items, etc...) as well as photos, drawings or magazine clippings.

Activity:

- 1) Brainstorm ideas about who you are. Include hobbies, interests, family members, friends and anything that gives you identity in today's society.
- 2) Use materials brought from home, as well as charcoal and pastel, to create a “cave wall” that describes who you are.
- 3) We will combine all the pieces to create a class cave wall as a collective presentation.