KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

How did prehistoric people create art using the materials around them?

MY LEARNING JOURNEY

1. What can prehistoric art tell us about life in the Stone Age?
2. How can artists scale up a drawing accurately?
3. How did prehistoric people make paint?
4. What techniques did prehistoric artists use?
5. How can we create prehistoric-inspired artwork together?

Previously, I learnt to…

- Use drawing materials.
- Explore colour and pattern.
- Create artwork inspired by artists.
- Talk about what I like and dislike about artwork.

In this unit, I am learning to…

- ❑ Recognise how and roughly when prehistoric art was created.
- ❑ Plan sketches using simple shapes.
- ❑ Scale up drawings accurately.
- ❑ Use charcoal for prehistoric-style art.
- ❑ Mix natural pigments and colours.
- ❑ Compare prehistoric and modern paint.
- ❑ Experiment with colour and texture.
- ❑ Create positive and negative handprints.

Looking ahead: In Year 4, I will learn to…

- Use tone to create a three-dimensional effect.
- Use texture and mark-making purposefully.
- Draw objects in proportion.
- Create artwork using contrast.
- Explore printmaking in greater depth.

VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
Prehistoric	A time before people recorded history through writing.
Stone Age	The oldest period when humans are known to have lived.
Charcoal	Burnt wood used as a drawing material.
Pigment	The colour found in a natural material.
Drawing Medium	A material used for drawing, such as charcoal or pencil.
Scale Up	To enlarge a drawing while keeping the proportions the same.
Proportion	The size of one part compared to another.
Smudging	Blending a drawing material on a surface.
Positive Print	A coloured print on a lighter background.
Negative Print	A lighter print on a darker background.

1

Prehistoric Art

Prehistoric art dates from thousands of years ago, before written records.
Cave paintings often show animals, an important Stone Age food source.



2

Charcoal

Charcoal is burnt wood used for drawing.
Artists can:
* draw bold outlines
* shade areas
* smudge it to blend tones
Many cave artists used charcoal.



3

Natural Paint and Pigments

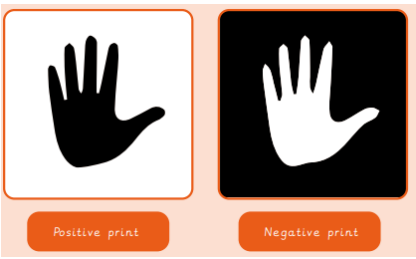
Stone Age people made paint using natural materials:
* berries and plants
* burnt wood
* animal fats
Colours depended on the pigments they could find.
Green and blue pigments were difficult to find.



4

Positive and Negative Prints

A positive print shows a coloured hand on a lighter background.
A negative print shows a lighter hand on a darker background.
Handprints are common in prehistoric cave art.



5

Creating Prehistoric Art

Historians think artists may have:
* used animal-hair brushes
* sprayed paint through hollow bones
* used natural pigments
* painted in dark caves.

6

Scaling Up a Drawing

Start with simple shapes.
Find the biggest shape first.
Compare proportions carefully.
Enlarge the drawing while keeping the same relationships between shapes.

