

# Cave Paintings & Petroglyphs



## Classification Game



## Art Prints



## Timeline Poster

## Art Project

### Petroglyph Carving

Use a pencil to draw a simple shape on a rock. Use a sharp object to carve the shape into the rock. Use a brush to clean the rock.

**Materials:**  
 - pencil and paper  
 - sharp object  
 - brush  
 - water

1. After you have finished carving, use a soft brush to highlight the lines. Dip the brush in the water and gently brush the lines. This will make the lines stand out.

2. Let the paint dry.

3. Use your petroglyph to show your class. Show them your petroglyph and let them tell you what they have learned from your petroglyph. Tell them what the symbols mean to you.

### Petroglyph Painting

Use a rock, pencil, and paint to create a petroglyph. Use a brush to clean the rock.

**Materials:**  
 - rock  
 - pencil  
 - paint  
 - brush

4. Dip the sponge in the colors on your palette and use it to paint the rock. Start painting the rock. Don't blend the colors too much.

5. Quickly cover all the surfaces of your rock that you can see. The paint won't be able to get to the back of the rock. Let it dry overnight.

### Petroglyph Rock

Use a rock, pencil, and paint to create a petroglyph. Use a brush to clean the rock.

**Materials:**  
 - rock  
 - pencil  
 - paint  
 - brush

**Directions:**  
 1. Cover your work area with newspaper. This will make it easy to clean up.  
 2. Dampen the rock just enough so that it will hold a shape.  
 3. Dip a rock shaped like the rock. Make it about one inch deep and four to five inches wide and long.  
 4. Fill one cup about half full of plaster. Write your name on one end of your craft stick. Use the other end to mix well.  
 5. Add water and stir a little of a time, until the plaster is about as thick as wet sand. Mix it thoroughly with the craft stick. You'll need to work fast because plaster begins to harden very quickly.  
 6. Add tempera paint to create the color of a black, gray, or brown rock. Mix it in.  
 7. Pour the plaster mixture into the hole. Gently tap it down to fill the space. Run your stick in the sand back to your rock on your work surface.  
 8. Bend a large paper clip until it breaks in half. Use it to break the paper into the plaster and push it into the hole. Let it harden.  
 9. After a couple of hours, gently dip the "end" of the rock. Remove it from the sand and let it dry. Write your name on the back. It will take several days or a week for it to dry completely. Then it will be very hard and the plaster will have hardened.



# Ancient Rock Art

Thank you for taking the time to check out these materials for the study of Ancient Rock Art. This is one of the components of the thematic unit Cave Paintings & Petroglyphs. I hope you'll find it exciting and educational!



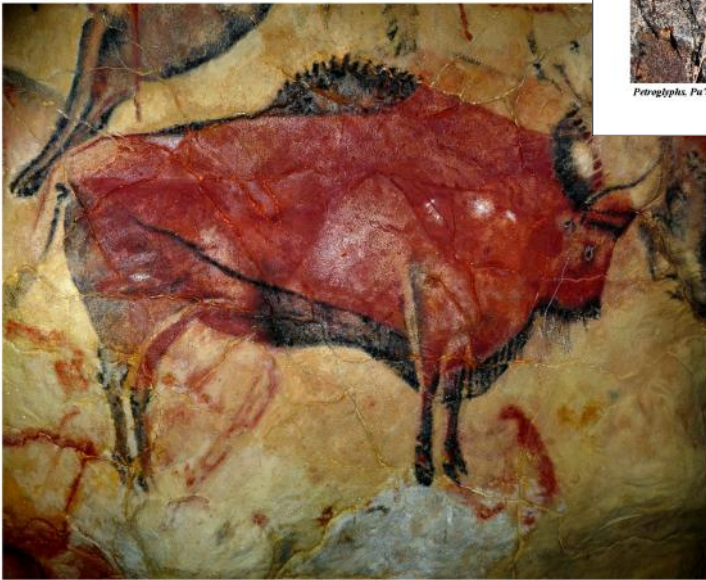
# 18 Art Prints



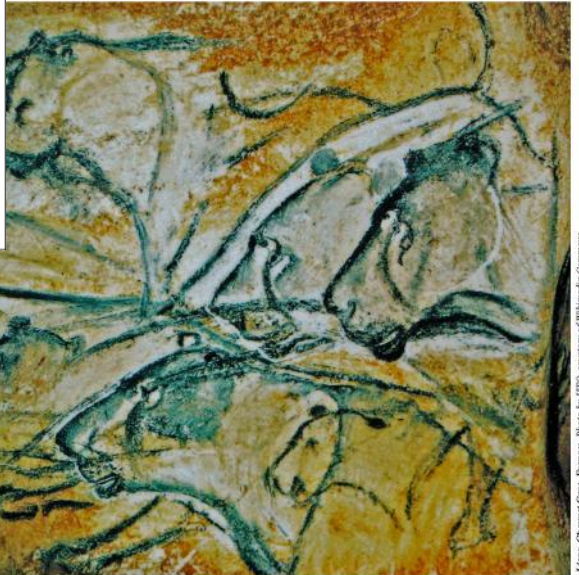
*Altamira Bison, Spain: Photo by HTO (Own work (own photo)) [Public domain], courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. Notice how the bison was painted within a bulge in the rock. This is common in many cave paintings.*



*Petroglyphs, Pu'u Loa, Hawaii: Photo by A. Crane, courtesy of National Science Byways Online (www.byways.org).*



*Altamira Bison: Photo by Ramesoss (Own work) [Public domain], courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.*



*Lascaux Cave, France: Photo by HTO, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.*

Names \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Looking at Rock Art Discussion Guide

As you examine the Art Prints, discuss these questions with your team. Each person will take notes for one piece of art. You'll need 1 sheet/each art print.

Name of Art Print \_\_\_\_\_

Why would someone make this image?

How did the artist arrange the figures?

Is this a piece of art? Why or why not?

Where is the art?

How does the art work fit in with the background?

How does the piece make you feel? Why?

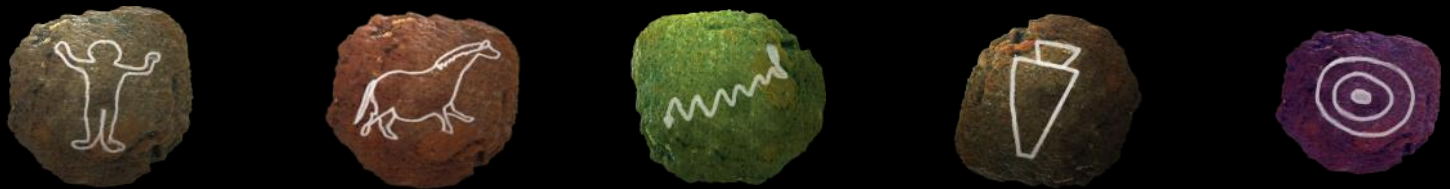
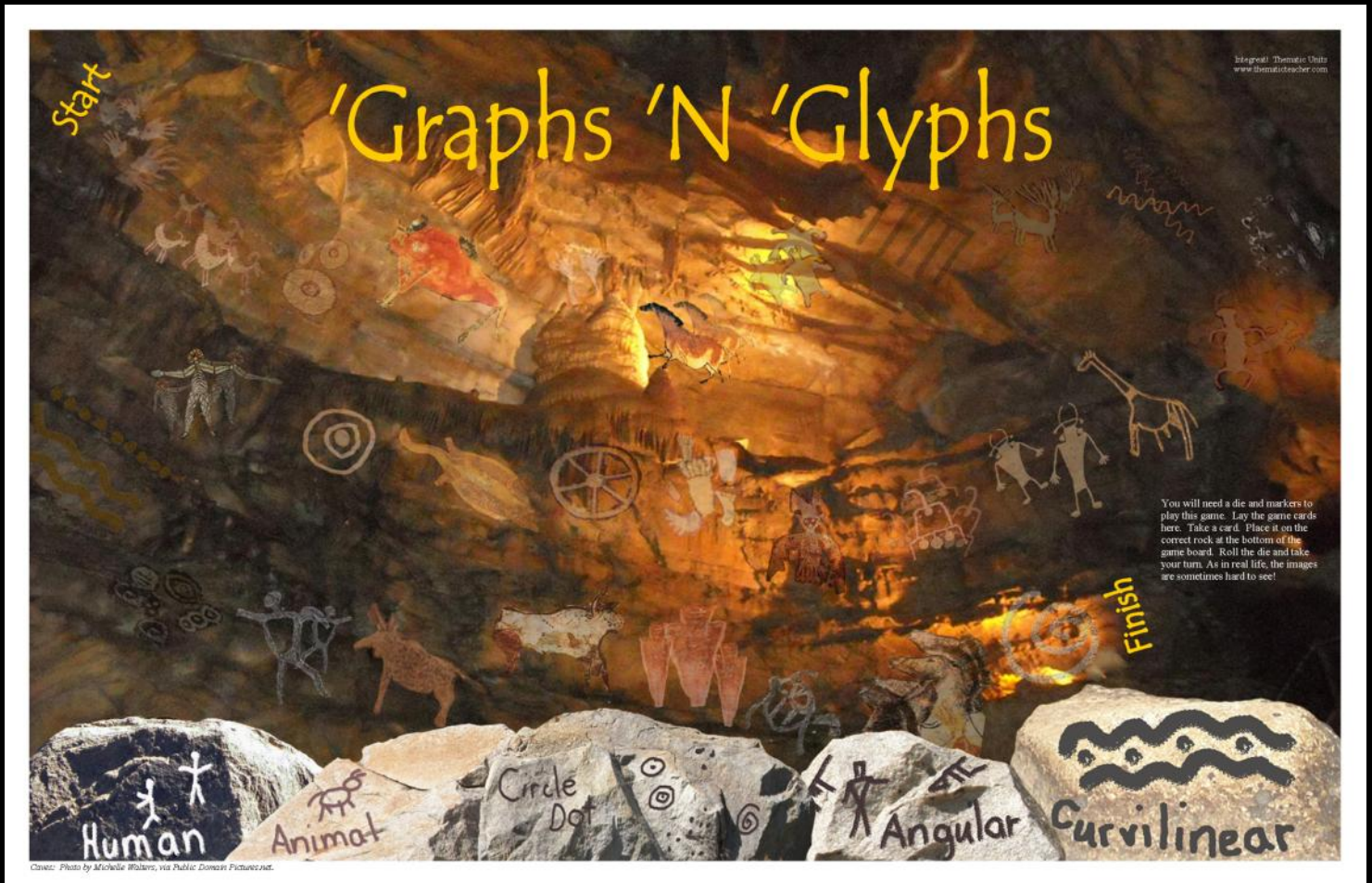
What colors were used? How were they combined?

What tools were used?

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# 8.5X11





# 'Graphs 'N' Glyphs

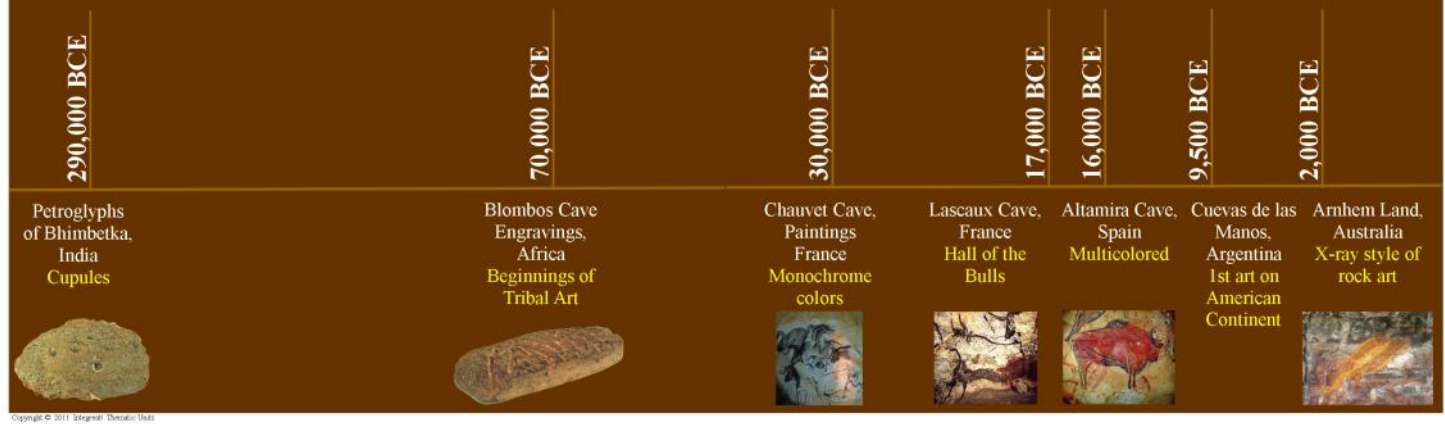
## Art Classification Game

### 11X17 Game Board w markers





# Timeline of Cave Paintings and Petroglyphs



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## Timeline Poster 8.5" X 22"



# Petroglyph Carving

Native people carved images in rock using sharp stones, sharpened bones, and deer antlers. They used a pecking (chipping) or scratching motion. Archaeologists believe they used materials they found in the area, and then just threw them back when they were finished. They did not make special tools for this purpose.

## Materials:

- pencil and paper
- sharp stone or other carving tool
- cotton swab
- thinned white tempera paint



## Directions:



1. Trace your rock on a piece of paper. Draw your design there, first. When it's just the way you want it, then draw it on your rock with a pen or pencil. It should be almost as large as your "rock".



2. Native people used sharp stones to peck their designs into the rock. Try your luck with a sharp stone. If that doesn't work, look around the classroom to see what you can use.



3. Peck or scratch your design into your rock. This may take a while, depending on what you are carving with, and how hard your "rock" is. Add any details you wish.

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4. After you have finished carving, use a cotton swab to highlight the lines. Dip the swab in thin white paint and gently paint lightly inside your carved lines.

5. Let the paint dry.

Now you're ready to share your rock with your classmates. Show them your petroglyph and let them tell you what they learn from your reproduction. Tell them what you learned from making it. Then hang it up on the wall for everyone to enjoy!

# Petroglyph Painting

As a rock weathers, it develops a crust on the outer side called a "patina." The patina is much softer and often a darker color than the underlying rock. You are going to paint a patina on your plaster rock.

## Materials:

- tempera paint: choose a rock color—
  - gray: white, black, brown
  - brown: brown, white, black, yellow
  - black: black, blue, brown
- cardboard covered with foil to make a palette
- small piece of sponge (about 1"X2")
- newspapers



## Directions:

1. Cover your work area with newspapers.



4. Dip the sponge in all the colors on your palette and bounce it up and down to begin painting the rock. Don't blend the colors too much.



5. Quickly cover all the sections of your rock that you can see. You might want to paint the back as well. Make sure the edges are covered. Let it dry overnight.



Dr. Henry Hensel studied some of the Petroglyphs and Pictographs he collected. This is a reproduction of a bison from the Abasco Cave in Spain. Photo by David Goodrich, via Wikimedia Commons.

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# Petroglyph Rock

You are going to make your own "petroglyph" using the information you will learn during this unit. "Petro" means stone, and "glyph" means carving, so a petroglyph is a "stone carving." You are going to make a "rock" that you will later be able to carve.

## Materials:

- plaster of Paris
- craft stick
- water
- large sized disposable drinking cup
- tempera paint—brown, white, black, yellow
- sand, in a sand box or plastic box
- jumbo paper clip



## Directions:

1. Cover your work area with newspapers. This will make it easy to clean up!

2. Dampen the sand just enough so that it will hold a shape.

3. Dig a rock shaped hole in the sand. Make it about one inch deep and four to five inches wide and long.



4. Fill your cup about half full of plaster. Write your name on one end of your craft stick. Use the other end to mix with.



5. Add water and stir, a little at a time, until the plaster is about as thick as a milkshake. Mix it thoroughly with the craft stick. You'll need to work fast because plaster begins to harden very quickly.



6. Add tempera paint to create the color of a black, gray, or brown rock. Mix it in.



7. Pour the plaster mixture into the hole. Gently tap it down to fill the spaces. Put your stick in the sand next to your rock so your name shows.



8. Bend a large paper clip until it breaks in half. Give it to a friend. Press the paper clip into the plaster and jiggle it a little. This is the hanger. Let it harden.

9. After a couple of hours, gently dig the "rock" out of the sand. Rinse off the loose sand and pat it dry. Write your name on the back. It will take several days or a week for it to dry completely. Then it will be very hard, just like the rocks the native people carved!

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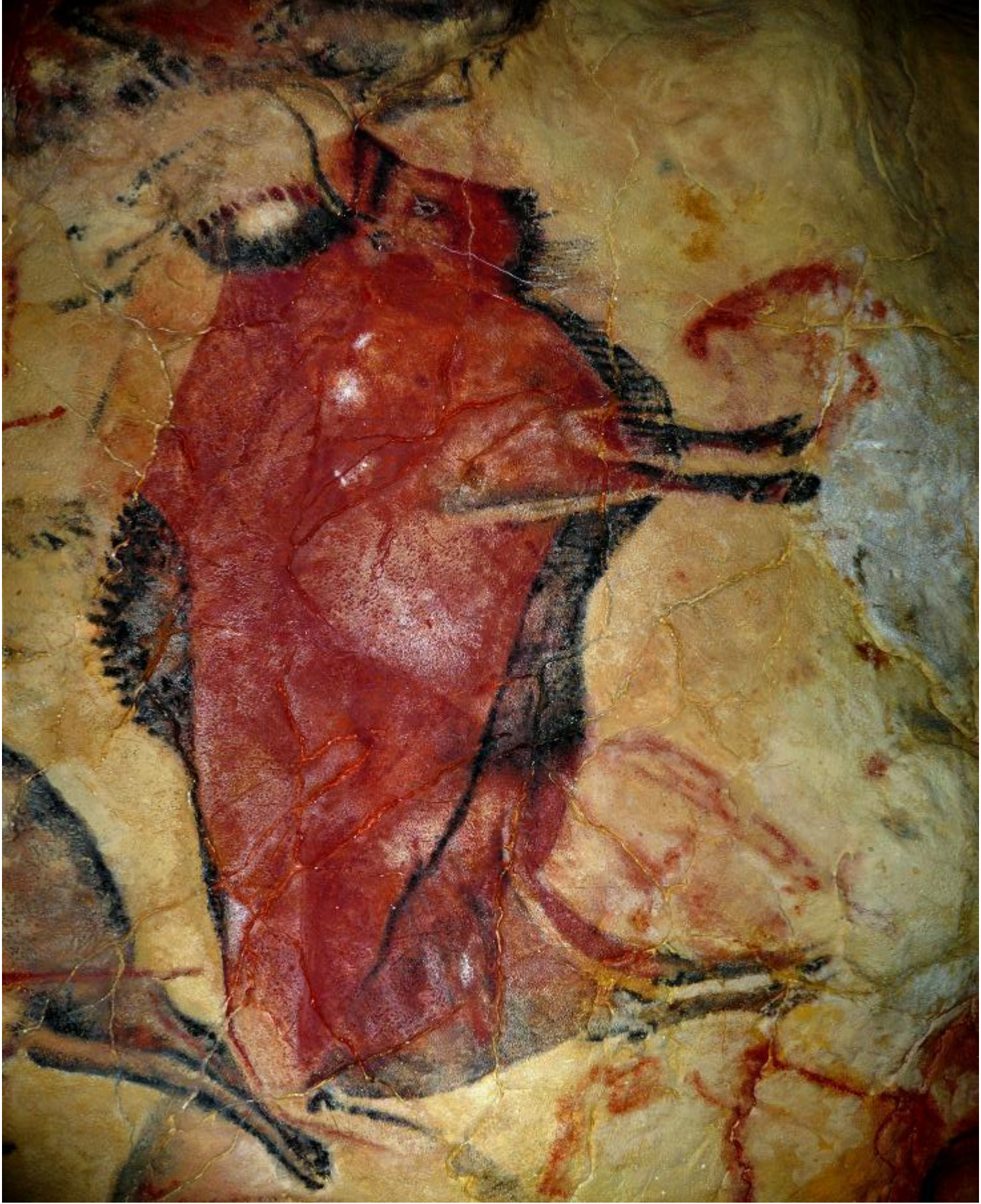
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Make Your Own Petroglyph  
Students read and follow directions to make a plaster rock and then carve an image on it.





Altamira Bison: Photo by Ramessos (Own work) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons.