Lascaux, also called Lascaux Grotto, French Grotte de Lascaux, cave containing one of the most outstanding displays of prehistoric art yet discovered. The cave was discovered by four teenage boys in September 1940 and was first studied by the French archaeologist Henri Breuil. It consists of a main cavern (some 66 feet wide and 16 feet high) and several steep galleries. Each is magnificently decorated with engraved, drawn, and painted figures, in all some 600 painted and drawn animals and symbols and nearly 1,500 engravings. The paintings were done on a light background in various shades of red, black, brown, and yellow. Dating some charcoal has given a date of 17,000 years ago, other specialists are certain that the cave’s art is a highly complex accumulation of artistic episodes spanning a much longer period.


Would you like to take a virtual tour? Click the picture and enjoy!
Try this at home!

Make your own cave paintings

Supplies

Paper Groceries Bag
Scissors
Chalk (Optional)

To draw animals choose one: crayons, paint, markers, color pencils, or pastels

Cut open your paper bag, so that it's a long sheet of brown paper. Tear around the edges of paper, giving it a rough and jagged look. To make your paper look more like rock, use some white or yellow chalk to draw some cracks and ridges. Use your fingers to rub chalk into the paper, smearing the chalk. Take the whole paper and crumble it into a ball, then unwrap it and spread it out. It should look weathered with creases and crevasses, like a cave wall! Now you can add your animals. You can use crayons, paint, markers, color pencils or pastels, whatever you have on hand. Use black, brown, red, orange or yellow, try to use the colors that early man used to make their cave paintings. On the next page you'll see a coloring sheet with images from cave art. Use that as a guide for drawing your animals. You can even print it out and color it for fun! If you want to show us your cave painting, send a picture to kids@lcplin.org.