



Prehistoric Cave Painting

This activity will give you a hands-on experience of how prehistoric humans made paints and colors with the tools and resources that were available to them. You probably don't have a cave at your disposal, and your school may not be in a remote, wild environment, but the process here is at least somewhat similar. There will be dirt involved, and it will probably get messy, but that's part of the fun!

- Why do you think prehistoric humans made art?
- How would they have gotten their paints?
- What materials from the natural environment could we use to make our own paints?



"The Colorful History of Paint"

READ: earthdate.org/colorful-history-of-paint



SCAN ME



Materials

You will need vegetable oil, blueberries, raspberries, mortar and pestle, plastic zip bags, permanent markers, small cups, paintbrush, and canvas paper.

Forage

- First, make a sketch of what you want your cave painting to look like.
- Make a list of materials that can be used to make natural paint (different color dirt, soft rocks, fruits, berries).
- Go outside and explore the area surrounding your house and neighborhood, foraging for soils and small, soft rocks that can be ground into powder.
- Collect samples in the plastic bags, labeling each.

How to Make Prehistoric Paint

1. Grind soft rocks into fine powder using mortar and pestle. Do the same for the berries.
2. Measure about ½ cup of soil or ground rock into small bowl.
3. Add 1 tsp. of oil at a time and mix until a good consistency has formed.

For a more advanced challenge, try making more "modern" paints like watercolors or acrylic paint ([wikihow.com/Make-Your-Own-Paint](https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Your-Own-Paint)).

Students! Answering our questions? Using our strategies? Share them with us at discovery@worldstrides.com.