



Cave paintings at Kakadu and Lascaux, France

Prehistoric cave paintings were created in deep, dark, dank caves. Images were painted by hand. Imagine painting in these conditions. Imagine how the artist kept track of the sequence of events. Try drawing some of these prehistoric animals with charcoal or pencil on paper with your eyes closed.



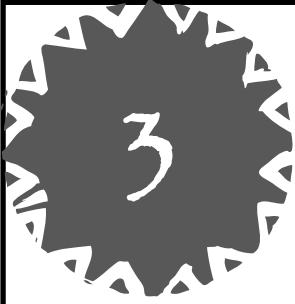
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Animals are the most commonly depicted subject of the prehistoric cave paintings. Why were animals so important in prehistoric society?



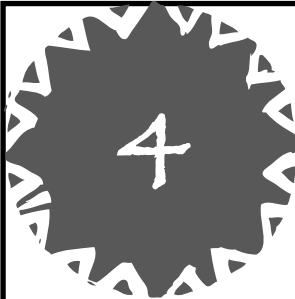
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Study the animal depictions in prehistoric art and find five other works of art from different time periods and cultures that depict animals. Sketch the animals.

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Describe the use of colour in the cave paintings. Why did the people use these colours? Where did they get the colours from?

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Piet Mondrian, *Composition with Yellow, Blue and Red*, painting

Describe the use of primary colours and geometric shapes in the works of Mondrian. Create your own drawing using primary colours and geometric shapes.



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Salvador Dalí, *The Persistence of Memory*, painting

Describe Dalí's painting *The Persistence of Memory*. What do you think Dalí is saying about time and memory?



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Archibald Prize Winners

The Archibald Prize is regarded as the most important prize given to portraits in Australia. It was first awarded in 1921. Each year there are about 700 entries for the prize, with around 40 usually being selected for hanging as finalists.



View as many Archibald winners as you can online. What do you think the paintings show about changing attitudes toward artistic styles and techniques of showing people in paintings? What do the paintings, or their choice of subjects, say about Australia?

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Clifton Pugh, *Gough Whitlam*, painting

After Prime Minister Gough Whitlam was famously dismissed from office in 1975, he refused to sit for one of the traditional portraits painted of all Prime Ministers that are exhibited at Parliament House in Canberra. He instructed that the 1972 portrait of him painted by Clifton Pugh, which won the Archibald Prize that year, should be used instead.



Why do you think Whitlam did this? How does the style of the painting, which differs quite a lot from the style of the paintings of other Prime Ministers before and since, emphasise Whitlam and say something about his time as our national leader?

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Answer Key

163. Compare: very similar; fast line drawings that show a sequence of moving subjects. Contrast: different in materials and colours. Haring uses bright colours that prehistoric people did not have.
164. Answers will vary, but should touch upon the fact that the Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri painting is done in a style that we would today consider more emblematic of Australian Aboriginal art, whereas Albert Namatjira's most famous work is a highly accomplished exploration of a more European style of landscape painting. Namatjira enjoyed tremendous success in his time while painting in this European mode. *Warlugulong*, when it was sold in 2007, set a new price record for Aboriginal artwork sold at auction. Times and attitudes had changed, and Aboriginal artwork is now revered for being quite different to European styles.
165. The image of many people crowded on a boat on a trip to Europe shows two different levels of passengers, both physically and socially. Student drawings and descriptions will vary.
166. Compare: Both depict images of people awaiting a voyage; diagonal lines help break up the composition into sections. Contrast: colour painting versus black-and-white photograph.
167. Themes: everyday events of people living in the city, buses, cars, people working, people waiting – mostly candid shots. Student lists and comparisons will vary.
168. The image was so emotional and realistic that it brought attention to the story.
169. Answers will vary.
170. Answers will vary. Students may touch on the fact that Whitlam was determined to stand out, and that the portrait being so different was another way of marking him out as different to other Prime Ministers. It also indicates that Whitlam liked to be seen as unconventional and a bit radical.
171. Gehry combines traditional geometric forms with organic curves and patterns to create his “deconstructed” structures. He is morphing the two forms together. Student drawings will vary.
172. Gehry's work often seems unfinished, abstract and nontraditional. Wright mostly uses traditional forms. Student opinions will vary.
173. Compare: public forms of art, nontraditional, not in galleries, express culture and lifestyle. Contrast: Colours are different; graffiti subjects usually include a form of text, such as a name.
174. Graffiti can be a positive and legal display of public art that represents modern culture, usually connected to modern youth, or it can be vandalism. It is often seen on brick walls, in parks, on trains and in cities.
175. Answers will vary.
176. Chung combines images of Asian and American heritage and cultural stereotypes to create a sarcastic commentary on cultural clichés.
177. Chung stages fictitious scenes of juxtaposing objects and takes pictures of the scenes, capturing his view, telling his story and conveying his message or unique viewpoint. Chung's photographs are staged scenes, while Frank's photographs are candid images of everyday real life.
178. Wiley uses traditional elements of Renaissance portrait painting while depicting modern-day people.
179. The mood is lighthearted but not silly; the paintings are skilfully painted in a realistic style.
180. The portrait conveys confidence, royalty, power and pride. The painting seems to be serious, but it is humorous because of the juxtaposition of Renaissance objects and clothing with the modern-day figure of Ice-T. Student descriptions will vary.