

Student Link

Lesson Activity for Grade 9

(*Arts: Art*)

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THE CAVE OF CHAUVET-PONT-D'ARC

INSTRUCTIONS

Ancient artwork has been discovered in many places including some cave work in Canada. The Cave of Chauvet-Pont-D'Arc in Southern France, demonstrate some of the most wonderfully preserved cave art in the world as well as the fossilized remains of many extinct animals. It is regarded as one of the most significant pre-historic art sites. Let's explore this site and learn more about the cave's discovery and it's rich history.

1. Go to the "**Grade 9**" homepage and click on "**Fine Art**".
2. Click on the link to "**The Cave of Chauvet-Pont-D'Arc**" on this page.
3. On the main page click on "**The Cave Today**" then click on "**The Discovery**".
4. Read through the discovery of the caves by Jean-Marie Chauvet and his two friends and answer the following questions:



1) How did the trio discover the hidden caves?

2) The story of the discovery talks about Jean-Marie Chauvet and his friends having a passion for "Speleology". What is Speleology? (Hint: Websites like www.dictionary.com can easily provide you with word definitions).

3) From what substance were the drawings in the cave made from?

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5. Now, click on “**Authentication**” on the left side of the page. Read through this section and answer the following questions:

1) Name three things that convinced authorities that the caves were real and not a fabrication.

2) What types of clues about the paintings did researchers use to verify that they were real?

6. After you have finished answering the questions, click on “**Preservation**” on the left hand side of the page and read through the description. Respond to the questions below:



1) Why should the government protect the cave environment now when it's been left unprotected for so many years?

2) Why is the artwork in these caves so important to archaeologists and what do they say about how the people in these caves communicated?

3) How do you think cave drawings like these have contributed to the modern artwork of today?

7. Now it's time to take a tour of the cave. Navigate back to the homepage by clicking on the house icon at the top left corner of the page. Then click on the “**Visit the Cave**” at the bottom of the homepage. Take some time to look through all of the amazing artistic work found in the cave and think about what the kinds of people that might have created these drawings and how they may have lived...

