

My Personal Painted Pebble

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Lesson Overview: A painted pebble activity is used to help students understand possible uses and or importance of painted pebbles.

Objectives: Students will

- Make inferences about possible uses/importance of painted pebbles
- Recreate painted pebbles used by prehistoric people

TEKS [history] 4.1B; 4.20B; 5.25A; 7.2A; [art] 4.2A; 4.2B; 4.3A

Materials: Flat pebbles or small stones, Small paint brushes, Acrylic paint in a few different colors

Activity:

Step 1: Read “Painted Pebbles”, an excerpt taken from page 14 of “Life in a Rock Shelter” by G. Elaine Acker, to the class.

Step 2: Discuss possible uses/importance of painted pebbles.

Questions could include:

What do you think they used the pebbles for?

Why do you think they painted on the pebbles?

What do you think the paintings on the pebbles signified?

Step 3: Hand out materials and let children paint their pebbles.

Closure: Let children get into groups of four or five to share what they have painted and what the pictures mean to them. Display the pebbles in the room for a week or more so that the whole class can enjoy them.

Extension: You could make your own paint by grinding the pigment from clay, berries, or non-toxic charcoal and mixing the pigment with water, egg white, or vegetable oil. Then the student could apply the paint with sticks or leaves for a more realistic example of the way painted pebbles were made.

<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/tmm/anthro/kirkland/61-70LPRR.htm> is a web site that shows some paintings of painted pebbles.

<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/tmm/anthro/rockart/pictographs.html> is a web site that explains how you can make paint yourself.

Painted Pebbles

Archeologists have found a few examples of painted pebbles buried along with other artifacts at sites in the Lower Pecos. The smooth, flat, limestone rocks were decorated with geometrical designs and human-like faces. Although researchers suggest that the pebbles represent human beings, their actual purpose is unknown.

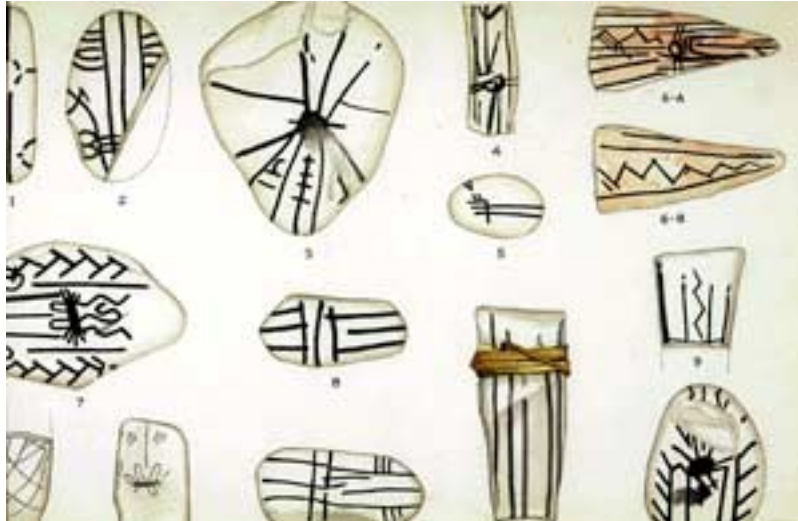


Image of painted pebbles taken from
<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/tmm/anthro/kirkland/61-70LPRR.htm>