

Rock Art Caves

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Lesson Overview: Students use the Internet to learn about rock art. Students work together in small groups to create caves for other students to explore in the classroom.

Objectives: Students will

- Make and interpret visuals
- Use the Internet
- Use cooperative skills

Materials: Computers with Internet access, real examples of rock art through slides and pictures, brown paper, colored markers

Activity:

Step 1: Teacher shows slides of rock art from various sites in Texas or around the world.

Step 2: Students seek out further examples of rock art on the Internet. The Rock Art Foundation website (<http://www.rockart.org>) is recommended, but students can easily find a dozen more through links and related searches. These websites will provide a wide variety of rock art examples that will show a diversity of people, culture, geography, content, time, and specific medium. Students copy one or more rock art drawings from the Internet.

Step 3: Divide students into small groups and give each group several large sheets of brown paper and colored markers. The groups cover the “cave walls” with rock art designs.

Step 4: Tape the sheets of paper over desks or attach to the wall or bookcase to make a “cave” for each group. Rock art designs should be inside the cave.

Step 5: Groups explore the different caves and try to learn something of the culture portrayed by the rock art.

Closure: Groups make inferences about the culture of another group’s “cave” to the class, based on their interpretations of the drawings.

Suggested Rock Art Resources:

Kirkland, Forrest. (1967). The Rock Art of Texas Indians. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Shafer, Harry J. and Jim Zintgraff (1986). Ancient Texans: Rock Art and Life Ways Along the Lower Pecos. San Antonio: Texas Monthly Press.

Texas Memorial Museum <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/trnm/anthro/kirk1and>

Rock Art Bibliography <http://www.utexas.edu1hmn1anthro/rockart>