



What did art look like before writing?

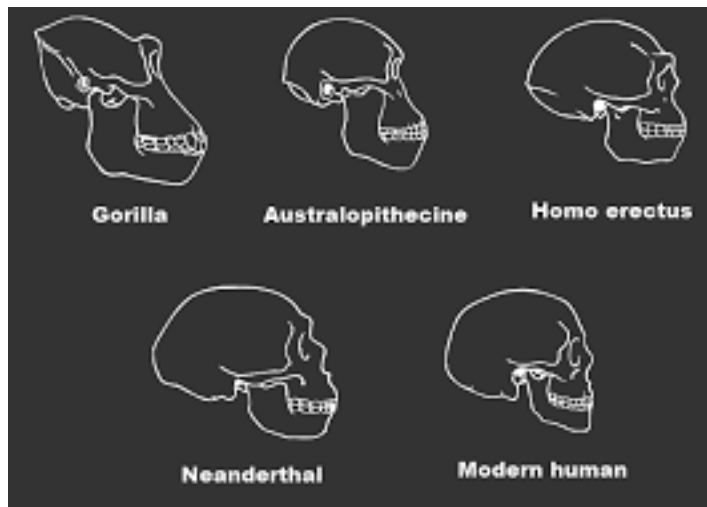
Intro to cave art, a presentation from Annabelle from the Pando Project



What time is it?

- When you think about it, life has really picked up a lot over the years.
 - It's 2019 CE (common era) right now.
 - America officially became a country away from England on...
 - July 4, 1776, meaning that it's around 242 years old
 - The lightbulb was invented in...
 - 1879, making it about 122 years old
 - The first cell phone call was made on...
 - April 3, 1973, so cell phones are about 45 years old
 - YouTube was created...
 - February 14, 2005, making it around 14 years old.
- So when was art created...?

A long time ago in a land far far away...



- Does anyone know what “prehistoric” means?
 - Pre= before, historic= history, therefore...
 - Life before written language
- How old do you think humans are?
 - About 300,000 years old. Remember, we’re in 2019 CE right now. Subtract that and you get that humans existed BCE for 297981 years! What did we do in that time?!
- The oldest example of art we have found is around 82,000 years old! Why do you think we can’t find any art from before that?



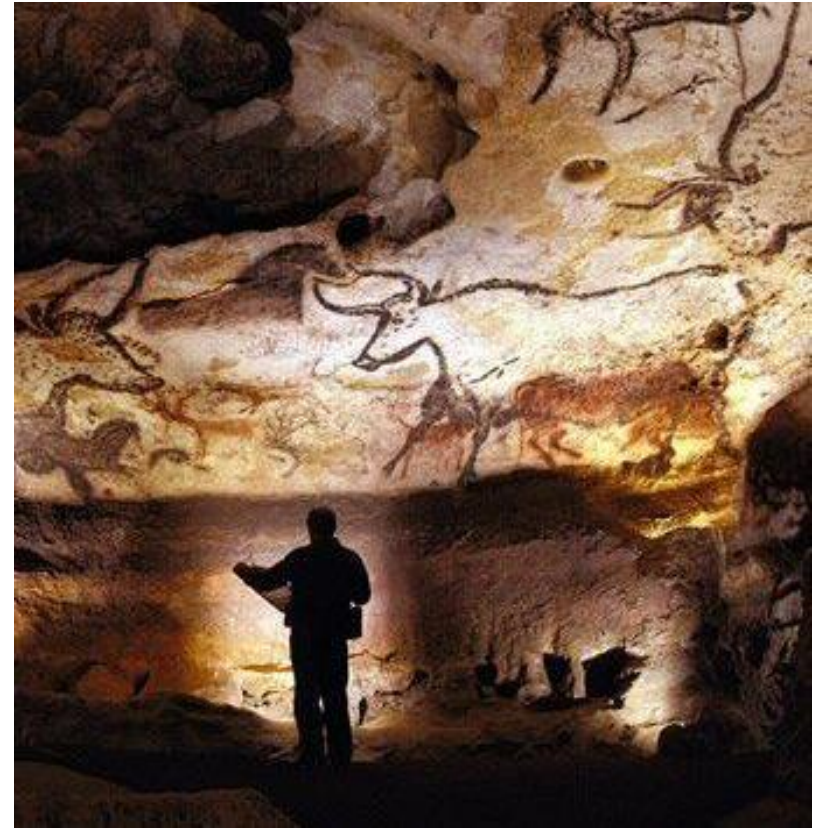
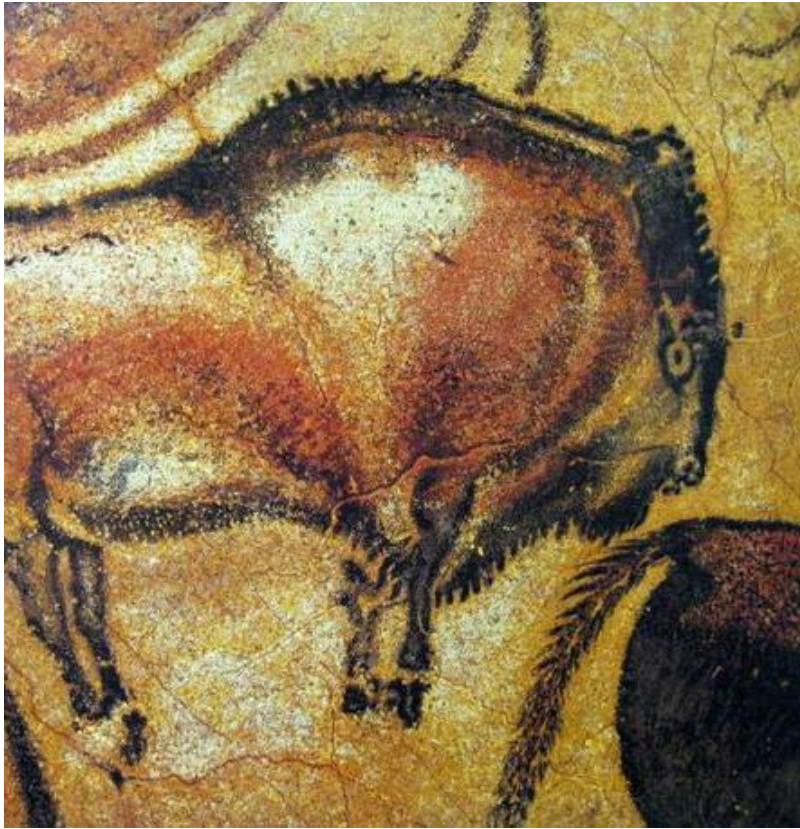
Cave art

- The oldest cave art found is thought to be roughly 30,000 years old.
- Cave art is probably some of the best known prehistoric art
- Cave paintings are mostly made with natural pigments (mostly red [hematite] and black [charcoal and manganese dioxide]) made from rocks but they sometimes also involve carvings
- There's around 400 discovered prehistoric painted caves in the world. Most are in Spain and France but there are also some in Italy, Portugal, England, Russia, Romania, and Germany.
- They usually depict animals and humans



But what does it mean?

- Let's take a look at this painting. What do you think it means?
- It's so old we can't reasonably know for sure, but we can always guess and interpret the meaning.



Here's some more examples

Let's try it!

- In the rest of the time I have here, lets do an art project in the spirit of prehistoric art.
- I've given you each three pieces of paper. I want you to choose a book or movie that you like and draw a scene from that book or movie on to each paper
- But here's the catch, like the people in the prehistoric era, you aren't allowed to use any written language! You can only use symbols, so get creative with it!
- Don't tell anyone what book or movie your drawings are from and we'll see when you all are done if anyone can guess.

If you want to know more...

- https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/preh/hd_preh.htm
 - This is an overall introduction to prehistoric art from the Met Museum
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/prehistoric-art>
 - Introduction to Paleolithic and Neolithic art made by Khan Academy
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjejoT1gFOc>
 - Short video about cave art from National Geographic.
- <https://www.britannica.com/art/cave-painting>
 - A more in depth article about cave art from the Encyclopedia Britannica
- <http://news.mit.edu/2018/humans-speak-through-cave-art-0221>
 - An article about how cave art may have helped humans communicate from MIT