

Name Model ..... Topic Prehistoric Art .....



Area of Investigation Why did ancient humans paint on cave walls?

Inquiry Path #3 - Were the humans merely painting artwork or were they communicating to one another?

In a few sentences, write a synthesis of what you have learned from your research about this Inquiry Path. This synthesis should provide an answer to your Inquiry Path, referencing your sources. At this point, you are NOT yet expected to provide your personal perspective. You simply give an account of your findings and analysis of sources. Draw from the Forming and Organizing Evidence-Based Claims tools you have developed for this Inquiry Path and use connecting words to help express the logic of your ideas.

The ancient people drew beautiful paintings on the cave walls showing that they were intelligent and creative people, and they communicated through their artwork. According to Reina, the ancient cave painters "represent the artists who used courage, intelligence, and imagination to leave behind images that have lasted for thousands of years," and went through the difficult process of making ink.

Benton writes that the ancient painters "created scaffolding to reach high areas, ventured into deep, dark and dangerous areas (which involved the invention of the oil lamp) and much more." If these people made such huge efforts to paint in the caves, then the drawings must have been very important to them.

Finally, Smitha says that the ancient people used storytelling to describe "their world in a way that they could understand, and it provided them with a vision of order in the universe similar to the order that existed in their own lives." Most likely, the ancient people told stories about the gods, the universe and themselves. These paintings and symbols in the caves were probably not done for simply artistic reasons, but to communicate more important aspects of their lives and beliefs to one another.