

STONE AGE ART

WHY DID STONE AGE PEOPLE NEED TO CREATE THEIR ART?

Early humans who lived during the Stone Age created cave art. Historians are still not entirely sure why people in the Stone Age created cave art, although lots of people have different theories about it. The Stone Age was a period of history before we had written or photographic records of life.



NATURAL PAINTS

Stone Age paint was made out of natural materials. You might have noticed that many of the paintings are made from browns, whites, reds and oranges. The paints were made by grinding up natural materials like rocks, woods, bones or charcoal and then mixing the powders with water or animal fat to create paint.



TOOLS

People would have used their fingertips to make the pictures. Alternatively, some cave artists used twigs or brushes made from animal hair.

TUBES

Some cave paintings feature hand shapes on the walls. These would have been made by blowing paint through tubes and using the hands as a stencil.



FIRE

It was dark in the caves and the cave artists would have needed a wooden fire torch to help them to see.

THE ARTS

VIKING ART

During the Viking age, Norse people apparently did not create art for art's sake. There are few examples of decorated objects having no purpose other than to display their ornamentation. Instead, Norse art is characterised by extraordinary ornamentation of everyday objects. Even the humblest objects are elaborately decorated.



This is a brooch. Brooches were used by Vikings to hold clothing, such as capes, closed as they didn't have zips.

This is a reconstruction of the serpent head from Oseberg Viking ship.



This is a picture stone. Picture stones were often used as memorials, although not often next to graves.

DESIGNS BASED ON ANIMALS OR MYTHICAL CREATURES

SYMMETRICAL PATTERNS

CIRCLES, SWIRLS AND SPIRALS

CROSSES OR KNOTS

EGYPTIAN ART

Ancient Egyptian art is five thousand years old. It emerged and took shape in ancient Egypt, the civilisations of the Nile Valley. Expressed in paintings and sculptures, it was highly symbolic and fascinating. Most of what we know about Egyptian art comes from the paintings the Egyptians created in the tombs of the rich people when they died.

Egyptian artists drew from memory, according to strict rules which didn't change for thousands of years – they didn't draw realistically.

These pictures were supposed to help the dead person out when he or she reached the next world, where the Egyptians thought you lived after you had died in this world. So the paintings showed the sorts of things they did in their everyday lives.



ANGLO-SAXON ART

The Anglo-Saxons were highly skilled craftsmen and women who created jewellery, ceramics, sculptures and wall paintings.

METAL CRAFTWORK



The Anglo-Saxons created buckles, jewellery and purse fittings which were made from gold, silver and bronze. The metal was beaten and engraved, often with dots and dashes representing the fur of animals.

STONE SCULPTURE & CARVING



Most Anglo-Saxon stone carving is of crosses on or beside churches. Many are now incomplete with carving faded.

IVORY & BONE CARVING



The Anglo-Saxons carved ivory and bone using ivory from the tusks of walrus and bones from whales. This late 10th century Anglo-Saxon cross, with the image of Christ carved from walrus ivory, is now on display at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

GLASSWARE



Anglo-Saxon glass was usually one colour and if used as a goblet, would have been a claw foot design. Glass beads were made and discovered in female burial sites.

TAPESTRY



The Anglo-Saxons carved ivory and bone using ivory from the tusks of walrus and bones from whales. This late 10th century Anglo-Saxon cross, with the image of Christ carved from walrus ivory, is now on display at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Key Vocabulary

Artefacts	An artefact is anything made, used, or modified by humans and can be portable or not portable. Artefacts are often discovered through excavation and are studied by archaeologists and historians in order to learn about the human past.	Symbolic	Symbolic is used to describe things involving or relating to symbol
		Corpse	A dead body, especially of a human being rather than an animal
Historian	A historian is someone who studies history. Historians study the passage of time and the events that happen within that passage.	Civilisation	Civilisation (or civilization) comes from the Latin word <i>civis</i> meaning someone who lives in a town. When people are civilised, they live in large, well-organised groups like towns, not in small tribes or isolated family groups.
Evaluate	If you evaluate something or someone, you consider them in order to make a judgment about them, for example, about how good or bad they are.		
Woad	The dye obtained from a plant, used especially by the ancient Britons, as a body dye.	Flora and Fauna	Flora is the plant life present in a particular region or time, generally the naturally occurring native plants. The corresponding term for animal life is fauna. Flora, fauna, and other forms of life, such as fungi, are collectively referred to as biota.
Madder	A dark reddish-purple dye obtained by fermentation of the root of certain plants.		

HISTORY TIMELINE

