

# Cave Paintings

9 Deep within some ancient caves, the ceilings and walls  
19 are covered in primitive art, brought to life by flickering  
28 firelight. These paintings are not thought to have only  
38 been for decoration, as they have been found in caves  
43 with no signs of life.

52 Made by grinding colourful rocks (such as yellow ochre  
63 and red oxide) into powder and binding them into a paste  
72 using water or animal fat, early humans drew animals  
81 and hunters, or left empty handprints, in caves around  
92 the world, as a call for hunting success from their spirit  
94 world ancestors.

103 Some famous cave paintings have been dated to around  
114 18 000 years old but many are now closed to the public,  
123 as the carbon dioxide breathed out by visitors caused  
129 irreparable damage to the prehistoric relics.



# Quick Questions



1. Find and copy two words from the text which mean the same as 'ancient'.

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2. Name a rock from the text which can be ground to form a colourful powder.

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3. Why is it not possible to risk the public damaging the cave paintings?

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4. 'Deep within some ancient caves...'  
In this sentence, what does the word 'some' tell the reader?

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