Unit #1 Art of the Paleolithic part 2

Announcements:
• Hand in initial questionnaire
• For Thursday
  art materials will be needed.
• Next Tuesday – prehistoric cave panel
  project- participation points!!
• Emailed power point images

Lecture:
• Paleolithic caves and the art
• Theories

SRC group project research

Video write up:
  – Lascaux Virtual tour
Unit 1 lecture concepts

Hunter/Gatherers:
  characteristics of early hominid groups

Paleolithic Ice age:
  Age of Innovation and adaptation
  environmental conditions affecting humans
  Paleolithic extinctions in the new world

3 European Caves:
  description of caves and artwork they contain

Animal rarities:

Cave crisis:
  What is affecting the cave sites today and what are we doing to save them.
Unit 1 assignments

• Connections concept map – Prehistoric era

• Video write up – Ice Age Bay Area
  – ¾ of a page describing the bay area region 10,000 years ago as presented in video.

• Video write up – Lascaux Cave Virtual tour
  – ½ page on your impressions of the caves and what theory stated in the lecture you believe is most valid.

• Prehistoric Animal Group work- Group Art Session #1
  • SRC research notes
  • Your image on the cave painting panel
  • Group board work notes

• Earth Map update
Unit #1 : Art of the Paleolithic

Paleolithic
Cro-Magnon humans
totemism
shamanism
anthropomorphophilc
Przewalski horse
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time period</th>
<th>Primary Lifeway</th>
<th>description of art work and examples</th>
<th>attitude toward nature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Prehistoric era: 2 million - 10,000 years ago</td>
<td>A. Lascaux, Altamira and Chauvet cave art</td>
<td>B.</td>
<td>C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Neolithic age: 10,000 years ago</td>
<td>A.</td>
<td>B.</td>
<td>C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Classic Period: 5000 years ago: rise of Egyptian, Greek, Persian civilizations</td>
<td>A.</td>
<td>B.</td>
<td>C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CCM #1. Paleo-Mid-Lithic Ice Age
1.8 mya – 10,000 ya

• What were the environmental conditions that defined the era?
• How did species respond to these changes in the climate?
• What made humans so successful during this time?
Early Homo sapiens: CroMagnon humans

- Subgroup of Homo sapiens
- 40,000 ya entered Europe
- 1st artists??

CCM 1a.

- Innovation and adaptation
  - social hunter/gatherer society
  - shelter made from rocks, clay, bones, branches and hides
  - Skilled communal hunters.
  - Limited gathering of plant materials – less diversity
  - Spirituality and sense of community and cooperation--Intentional burials
  - complex language
CCM.1b. Art of the Paleolithic

- Paintings, drawings, stencil, small 3D effigies, adornments of tools and personal items
- Subject matter:
  - Most herbivores although some predators
  - Humans rarely depicted in early cave art but were powerful
- Polychromatic vs monochromatic?
- Some sense of perspective.
- Simplistic but very accurate.
- All drawn from memory.
- Intimate knowledge of subjects
The illusion of perspective in cave art
Shading and modeling
3 – D Cave Art
CCM. 1c. Attitude towards Nature

• Nature was respected and revered
• Complete dependence on the abundance in their local environment.
• Elements controlled their survival.
• Nature-based spirituality
• Earth wisdom- knowledge of natural systems, seasons, processing resources and prey behavior
• Humans were a part of the ecosystem
• Sense of community
ART of the EUROPEAN PALEOLITHIC

- There are 350 cave art sites in France and Spain alone.
- Known cave art sites are those that were most protected from the elements and therefore survived

  El Castillo, Spain – 41,000 years old
  Discovered in 1903
The Art of Paleolithic Europe

5 Well-Known Caves that Contain Cave Paintings from the Upper Paleolithic Era

- **Altamira**
  - Discovered in 1868
  - Date of paintings: 14,000 - 16,000 years ago

- **Lascaux**
  - Discovered in 1940
  - Date of paintings: 15,000 - 10,000 years ago

- **Cosquer**
  - Discovered in 1994
  - Date of paintings: 27,000 - 19,000 years ago

- **Gargas**
  - Discovered in 1906
  - Date of paintings: 27,000 - 22,000 years ago

- **Chauvet**
  - Discovered in 1994
  - Date of paintings: 32,000 - 30,000 years ago
ART of the EUROPEAN PALEOLITHIC
Alta Mira Cave, Northern Spain

- First of the caves to be discovered 1880
- 18,000 years old
- Abundance of artifacts fossil remains on cave floor discovered.
- Sparked controversy
- Changed our view of prehistoric man forever.
Alta Mira Cave, Spain

• The cave itself is 900 feet of twisting complicated passages and chambers.
• 13,000 years ago a land slide blocked the main entrance and the art work was preserved and protected until it’s discovery at the end of the 19th century
Alta Mira Cave, Spain

- Created over a period of 5,000+ years
- Polychrome paintings-
- Engravings, drawings and paintings
- Use of natural rock formations
- Abundance of fossil remains and artifacts on the cave floor
Alta Mira
ceiling of bison
Alta Mira, Spain
Alta Mira, Spain
Alta Mira, Spain
Wounded Auroch?
Lascaux Cave, France

- Lascaux Valley of France
- discovered in 1940 by 4 teenagers
- 17,500 years old
- depicting mainly large herbivores
Lascaux Cave, France

- Mix of polychromatic and monochromatic
- More than 2000 images dominated by large mammals - herbivores
- 1 human figure and some abstract symbols
- Spraying and drawing – technique
- Brushes were not used
- No effigies found
- Highest density of art in deepest recesses of the cave.
- Reindeer their primary food was not depicted
Hall of Bulls
The falling bull
Lascaux Cave, France
Bird man of Lascaux Cave

Humans were rarely depicted but when they were, they exhibited spiritual significance - anthropomorphistic
Chauvet Cave, France

Oldest dated cave art of the three 37,000 to 30,000 years ago
Discovered in 1994 being latest cave discovered
Discovered by Jean Marie Chauvet.
Complex system of lava tubes 5x’s larger than Lascaux cave
Entrance submerged in water
Chauvet Cave, France

- Drawings, paintings and engravings (scratching surface)
- Yellows (ochre) black (charcoal) and red (iron oxides)
- Chambers included only one color.
- Predators depicted
- Mainly monochromatic
- Rock surface prepared ahead of time.
- 13 different species of animal, some rarely found in other caves ie hyena, a leopard, lions, an owl and cave bear.
- Numerous artifacts and fossil evidence were found on the cave floor.
Lion panel
Lion panel with bison
Lion panel
Chauvet Cave, France
Chauvet Cave, France
Motivation for creating the images

• Hunting magic
• Art for Art’s sake
• Shamanism
• Totemism

Most theories have been discounted and abandon---no one can really know the reasoning behind their creations.
Animals of Paleolithic Art project
Animals of Paleolithic Art project
part 1 research

• **Natural history**- range, behavior, diet etc.

• **Status**- extinct? How? Related contemporary species if extinct.

• **Art work** depicting your animal describe, what colors were generally used, what caves were they located, realistic? Accurate? Herbivore? Prey?

• View power point as a group and decide which image you will draw on panel.

Take notes on each
Animals of Paleolithic Art project
part 2 : cave drawing panel

• Review the power point images of your animal, familiarize yourself with the animal and how it was depicted in the cave art.
• Each group will create a panel of drawings of your chosen animal in the style of the Paleolithic artists
• Bring your drawing materials next Thurs. We will begin the project then.
• We will present both the research information and the art panel to the class on Thurs. April 25th.
Lascaux Cave virtual tour

**Video write up:**
Write half a page about your impressions of what it must have been like to enter these deep, dark caves and the motivation it must have taken to create the art that we see today.

Also write your ideas about their possible motivation for creating this art work. Which of the theories presented in lecture do you agree with?

- http://vimeo.com/40849516