

Name _____

Date _____

Diverse Media: Art

Art is created with an audience in mind. The audience is the group of people who view an exhibit or performance. Because Beever produces art that is viewed in public outdoor spaces, his audience is everyday passersby.

Read the following text about art and answer the questions.

The Cave Paintings of Lascaux

Deep in a cave in southern France, prehistoric paintings cover the walls, creating one of the most remarkable art galleries in the world. The Lascaux Cave paintings were discovered in 1940 by four teenage boys who were exploring the woods with their dog. When the dog disappeared into a hole, the boys followed and found themselves in an underground chamber decorated with extraordinary images.

The paintings, created about 17,000 years ago, show mostly animals—horses, bulls, deer, and mysterious symbols. The prehistoric artists used natural pigments like red and yellow ochre, charcoal, and manganese to create their masterpieces. They applied these colors with primitive brushes, their fingers, or by blowing the pigment through hollow bones onto the wall.

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What makes these paintings special is not just their age, but their remarkable artistic quality. The animals appear to be in motion, drawn with accurate proportions and details that show the artists truly understood their subjects. Today, to protect these fragile artworks from damage caused by visitors' breath and presence, the original cave is closed to the public. Instead, an exact replica called Lascaux II was created nearby for tourists to experience this ancient wonder.

1. How were the Lascaux Cave paintings discovered?

2. What materials did the prehistoric artists use to create their paintings?

3. Why is the original Lascaux Cave closed to the public today?

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Diverse Media: Art - Answer Key

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