

Birth of Art

School Name _____

Student Name _____

Teacher Name _____

Date ____ / ____ /20 ____

Per. ____

Fill in the blanks with the following terms:

Beginnings of art imagination religious works of art

cave art megaliths secret

The question of when humans began to make art cannot be answered. Early _____ is a record of human intelligence, imagination and creative power.

Engraved ochre sticks found in South Africa are said to be 77,000 years old, the oldest known _____ . These pieces are

decorated with criss-cross lines scratched into the rock to form geometric patterns.

In southern France and northern Spain explorers continue to find cave markings - that which humans use to exert control over their environment - the use of images and symbols. The faculty of _____ came into being along with the concepts of identity and meaning.

Cave paintings go back to 30,000 BC. Their meaning may be religious or magical. Some images are of animals, some are of humans, some are abstract. The



Cave paintings from Spain dating back to 16,000 BC show some of the first artistic attempts at multi-colored three-dimensional depiction.

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pictures in caves never appear at the mouth of the cave, but in the darkest and deepest recesses, as far from the entrance as possible. This practice of "hiding" the artwork kept the works _____ and protected from would-be vandals for millennia.

In the extreme west of Europe, northern France, Ireland and England, monuments of roughhewn stones have puzzled and fascinated for centuries. The size of the stones, as much as seventy feet and weighing tons, have prompted historians to call them _____ or great stones - and the culture that produced them as megalithic. These structures appear around 3,000 BC. Among the several types of megalithic structures are the dolmen, consisting of several great stones set on end, with a large covering slab. Some single stones, called menhirs, set on end were arranged in parallel rows, some going for miles, including thousands of stones. Art historians attribute their purpose as ritual or _____: having to do with tombs, the dead, or sun worship. Such large stones are sometimes laid out in a circular format known as a cromlech. One well-known example is that of [Stonehenge](#).

During the Ice Age, humans, of the Stone Age, developed a system of representation that remains with us in the twenty-first century. We are not likely to understand the art of the past if we are quite ignorant of the aims it had to serve. We cannot hope to understand the strange _____ unless we try to enter into the mind of the primitive peoples and find out what kind of experience it is which makes them think of pictures, not as something nice to look at, but as something powerful to use.