

Art Before the Written Word

Guided Notes

Old Stone Age or Paleolithic Period - The historical period believed to have lasted from 30,000 BC until 10,000 BC

Paleo = OLD **Lithic**=STONE

Characteristics -

- Hunter & gathering
- People lived in small nomadic groups
- Glaciers of the last ice age still covered northern stretches of Europe, North America, and Asia

Characteristics of Prehistoric Art Sculptures

- Small portable sculptures made out of clay, bone, antlers, ivory & stone
- Mostly small figures or figurines, of people and animals
- Women as more frequent subjects (Venus of Willendorf)
- Sculpture shows good craftsmanship, evidence of their faith

Art Vocabulary

Incised=cut into

Engraved= lines were cut into or incised into a stone wall or stone sculpture to show detail (example hair)

Cave Paintings - 15,000 BC

Where? Lascaux, France & Altamira, Spain in remote recesses of the caves

What: bison, deer, horses, cattle, mammoth and boars.

Why: Archaeologists think --> to guarantee a successful hunt (animals pictured impaled with spears). Made for rituals not as art for art's sake.

How: paint was made from minerals, stone & ash. **Binder**=stick together
The binder was either blood, fat or other medium. Painted with fingers, sticks, twigs, moss, hair, fur, reeds or bristles

Pre-historic Architecture

- **Megalith**= Large monuments created from huge stone slabs
- Post and Lintel= think **II**
Post=Vertical Upright Lintel=Horizontal Crossbeam