

Petroglyphs and Pictographs

A Discovery of the Past

Introduction- This lesson is an extension from the book Arizona: Nations and Art pages 43 and 44. The book explains the differences between petroglyphs, pictographs, geoglyphs and intaglios. Arizona is rich with various clues from the past. The most intriguing part about these ancient rock art samples is it is still a mystery. Archeologists look at the clues and make connections to make inferences of what the drawings could mean. We still have no true “set in stone” answer for all forms of rock art. This lesson will allow students to explore the diverse and complex world of the art left by the early peoples of Arizona throughout our state.

Know: Definitions: petroglyph, pictographs, geoglyphs, and intaglios. Archeologists: study of prehistory and using clues to make conclusions. Know the regions of Arizona and early groups of indigenous peoples.

Understand: Connections to early rock art as a way of communication, religious meanings, art, and storytelling. Find the relationships of the symbols demonstrated by early people through rock art to the modern symbols still utilized in Native American cultures.

Do: (Small groups or individual) Investigate various images on the computer and other forms of resources offered by the teacher. Keep a log of the regions and illustrate what is observed. Make key notes of the early peoples of that area. Write a description of what you observe and your inference of the meaning. As all groups complete a log, compare ideals and likenesses found in the investigations.

Key Questions: What are the similarities between some ancient and modern Native symbols? Can some ancient symbols be found throughout the book? Do different areas show likenesses? What type of symbol is observed the most? What could be the meaning?

Extension Menu- Rock art activity may be added to this lesson for extended practice.

**Class field trip to the Deer Valley Rock Museum is highly recommended.

The following websites offers images of various rock samples. The students will have to navigate a few to find the actual images.

<http://www.google.com/search?q=petroglyphs+in+arizona&hl=en&prmd=imvns&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=yf4rUOCGlaK9iwLqh4H4BQ&ved=0CEwQsAQ&biw=1280&bih=637>

http://www.petroglyphs.us/photographs_petroglyphs_painted_rock_petroglyph_site_gila_bend_GB.htm

http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/places/countries-places/united-states/us_arizonarockart/

Be sure to answer the team discussion questions once you have filled out your drawing log.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some likenesses that your team has discovered? _____

2. What symbol did your team find the most? _____

3. What do you think that symbol means? _____

4. Draw and compare any symbol you found with any symbol represented in the book Arizona: Nations and Art. Is this symbol used in the art of modern Native Americans?

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5. Pick the symbol you find most interesting. Draw it and with a partner try to make a conclusion of the meaning.

	Conclusion _____ _____ _____
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