Family Art from Home

Prehistoric Animals in Ink

by Radka Apostalon

Inspiration for this art project came from cave art in Europe created nearly 20,000 years ago. Cave paintings were ways for early humans to record and represent their world. This mixed media project uses watercolor and ink to draw the animal and clay or dirt to recreate the surface of the cave.



Supplies Needed

- Scissors
- Watercolor Paper
- Watercolors (Color Pencils, Oil Pastels optional)
- Hot Glue (Elmer's Glue Optional)
- Ink
- Brushes
- Clay, dirt or sand
- Clean water





Image 2

Image 1

How to Do it

Learn about the Cave Art in Lascaux, France by watching this short video: https://youtu.be/UnSq0c7jM-A

Next, get the preferred size of watercolor paper. Load your brush with water and spread it on the paper in an animal body shape of your choosing. Tilt the paper so the water moves and creates a random shape (legs, antennas, wings, etc) on the watercolor paper.

While the water surface is still shiny, dip the tip of a different brush in the ink and lightly touch the wetted surface (See Image 1). The ink will spread depending on

the amount of water present on the surface.

Add any features or patterns to complete the animal (See Image 2). Soak up any excess water if necessary with a wet brush (water removed). Set aside, let dry.

To add the 'cave' look, use diluted clay, sand or dirt. Fill the background with your fingers or a brush. If using sand or dirt, mix with glue to stick to the surface.

Watercolors or any other paints, diluted if preferred, can be used for painting the background.



Albuquerque Museum
2000 Mountain Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104
505-243-7255 • cabq.gov/museum

