

Painting on Rocks

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Whatever our religion (or no religion) we all walk on the same planet. The rocks below our feet and the pebbles on our shores are at least thousands of years old and some are billions.

The human race has painted on rock walls for tens of thousand of years. Wall paintings are called murals. Some murals found in caves around the globe date back 45,000 years.



Rock painting is fun

During the Covid Pandemic 2020 to 2021, decorated pebbles, sometimes with messages on them, were placed in parks and public places as symbols of hope. Some villages created Rock Snakes with everyone invited to add a decorated pebble to the line along a pathway. Decorating pebbles is fun for people of all ages. Schools may use this activity to strengthen communication between age groups.

Instructions for this activity are provided on page 2 with examples of painted rocks prepared by members of The Arts Society Birmingham.

Pebble painting activity can promote inter class / year group communication.

You will need:

- * A smooth pebble (no bigger than the palm of your hand) for each pupil.
Note: It is illegal to remove pebbles from beaches or river beds (without permission of landowner). If necessary, pebbles can be purchased from landscape gardener or from a hobbies' supplier.
- * A small can of moisture resistant sealant.
- * Acrylic paint in range of colours for base coat if required.
- * Moisture proof, non-stick paper e.g. baking sheet to avoid sticking
- * Variety of 'tools' (acrylic paint pens, thick and thin); 'Sharpies' work well; small brushes etc. wet rags or paper towels.
- * Drawing paper for designs.
- * illustrations for ideas for design (cave paintings, patterns and pictures from range of cultures) unless activity is already an integral part of a programme eg Islam/Islamic Art.

Preparation by teacher:

- * Wash and scrub pebbles. Dry overnight.
- * Spray with sealant as per instructions. Dry overnight. Note: not essential to spray but prevents colours from fading.
- * Create central point for painting base coats – if required- and access to range of tools to be shared.
- * For large classes – especially if pebbles are going to be placed outside of the classroom, numbering pebbles or marking with names will help!

Activity: Introduce the ancient art of rock painting and links with the environment.

1. **Outline** intended outcome of project and introduce design ideas in relation to the shape of the pebbles. Allow time for browsing.
2. **Demonstrate** technique of applying marks, thick and thin.
3. **Encourage** design to completion. Enjoy.
4. When completed and dry, if pebbles are to be placed outdoors, a coat of sealant should be applied by the teacher.



Painted by members of The Arts Society: Diana, Raj, Rekha, Vicky and Victoria