

Rock Painting (3-8)

Lesson Plan (1 hour)

Materials Needed:

- Rocks (1 per student)
- Black and red sharpies (30 per bag)
- Binder/Duotang
- Red ochre
- Sample rocks
- Sheet of symbols for class

Classroom set up: Desks cleared, students have a pencil and eraser, request board space from teacher, request use of Document Camera from teacher if desired

Introduction:

1. Introduce Yourself

- Introduce yourself (name, title, where you are from, who you are as an Indigenous Person)
- Acknowledge the territory. "We acknowledge that we reside on the traditional ancestral unceded shared territory of the Sumas and Matsqui First Nations, Sumas and Matsqui First Nations have lived in the Fraser Valley for at least 10,000 years.
- Ask who are Indigenous people? (Answer: 3 groups, First Nations Métis and Inuit People)

2. Introduce the Presentation

- Today we are learning about rock painting that earlier Indigenous people have done around the world.

Show Picture 1:

- Where are these people? (Harrison Lake – bluff/ rock face/ cliff)
- What are they looking for? (pictographs) The Harrison Lake pictographs were painted up to 7,000 years ago. (Egyptian pyramids were built around 2,000 years ago.)

Show Picture(s):

- Pictographs are ancient paintings done by First Nation people around the world and here in the Fraser Valley.
- 7000 years ago, there was no written language, so communication was done through oral stories and pictures/ pictographs.

Show Picture(s):

- Pictographs tell a story, a people's history and are usually found on rock or cliff faces, in caves and near water ways. Why near water? (main mode of transportation was canoes)
- Ask the students why were rock paintings done? What are the students' theories about why rock paintings were created (maps, oral stories – to record events that have happened, natural disasters, food, family celebrations, safety warnings, animal encounters)

First Nations people have been here for a very long time. First Nations people have left symbols – we refer to the symbols as pictographs, markings on rocks. Some of these places are secret places so the pictographs are not ruined. Some pictographs are found in common places – ie. Harrison Lake

Some of these markings people know what they mean, and others have lost their meaning – due to the passing of time.

– What do you think the pictures mean, what story do you think they are telling?

(Some pictographs can be dated through radiocarbon dating, mainly the ones made from charcoal.)

Show Red Ochre:

- red ochre can be found in areas in the interior of BC
- Materials used for the paint was red ochre, charcoal, seashells and other things from nature.
- Mixing the paint materials with animal fats or salmon eggs made the paint stick to the rock surface.
- Red ochre can stain – so if allowing the students to touch the ochre ensure that it is a small touch

Unfortunately, some pictographs have been spray painted over or chipped away at. Pictographs tell Indigenous stories and history. They are ancient and sacred to the descendants of the artists. Please treat the pictographs with respect.

Modern Symbols: (5 min)

What kind of symbols do we see today? What symbols did you see on the way to school today? (stop sign, bathroom signs, no smoking, address, no dogs allowed) worldwide symbols – heart, peace What if you saw a symbol that looked like this – draw heart, peace How did you learn that? Where did you learn that? (Mom, dad, teacher...) Indigenous people learned their symbols from their family, their community. Some Indigenous people have their own symbols ie. Eagle feather, paddle, medicine wheel

The Super Nova Pictures:

The ancient Puebloans of the southwest, of what we now refer to as New Mexico, recorded a celestial phenomenon. This celestial phenomenon took place approximately 1000 years ago. Back in 1054, a star exploded and lit up the sky for 23 days. Scientists call an exploding star a “supernova”. The ancient Puebloans painted the pictographs on the underside of an overhang. It consists of a 10-pointed star, which represents the exploding star; a crescent moon, which represents the time the supernova took place; and a hand, which represents a sacred place. (Nanette Jackson 2016)

******Demonstrate your stop and listen signal here******

Rock Painting Activity:

Show students the symbols sheet you are handing out (can use document camera) (5min)

Do a grid sheet with Elementary Students

- Back side of Elementary handout – center line down the page, cut page into 4 squares
- 2 favourite from your sheets
- 2 personal symbols

Prepare students with the order of drawing on the rocks

1. choose symbol
2. pencil
3. Sharpie over pencil

Hand out rocks one at a time

Culmination Activity:

Rock Fashion Show – choose a few rocks to show under the document camera, or have the students walk around the classroom and see their classmates' rocks

Quiz:

1. Why did First Nation Peoples paint pictographs?
2. What materials were used to make the paint?
3. What materials were used to make the paint stick to the rocks?
4. Where are many pictographs found?

Thank you to the teacher for inviting you into their class.





Mable Lake Pictograph above

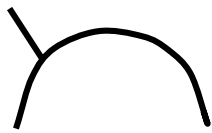




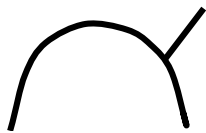


Pictographs

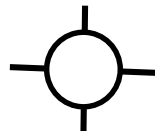
Some Indigenous groups drew pictures to tell stories about their lives. We call these pictures pictographs.



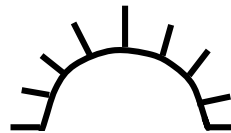
MORNING



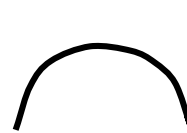
NIGHT



DAY



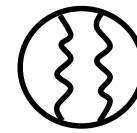
HOT



RAIN



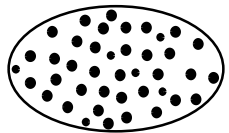
SNOW



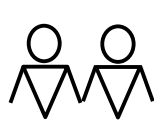
WIND



LIGHTING



EVERYBODY



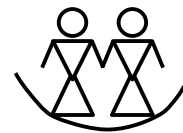
FRIENDS



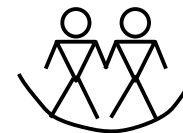
WOMAN



MAN



SISTERS



BROTHERS



LEADER



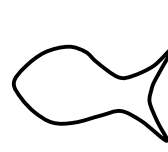
TALK



FEAST



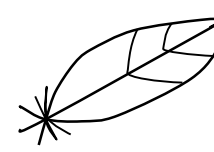
HUNT



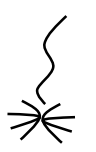
FISH



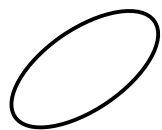
WAR



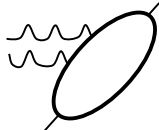
STRENGTH



CAMPFIRE



OCEAN



LAKE



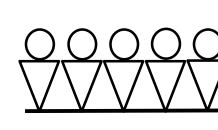
MOUNTAINS



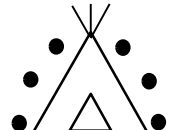
HILLS



GRASS



TRIBE



VILLAGE

A **Favorite** pictograph from the examples

A **personal** pictograph

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A **personal** pictograph

Other Pictographs I found interesting