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| **Lascaux Cave Drawings  By Jane Runyon Put in Journal!!!!** |  | http://www.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/edhelp1.gif |

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**Directions:**  Fill in each blank with the word that best completes the reading comprehension.  
  
     It was a crisp autumn day in September of 1940. Four teenage boys and a pet dog were exploring the hills and woods near the village of Montignac in France. They ran through the tall grass. They climbed mounds of dirt to play "King of the Mountain." When they found a large, old tree which had fallen from age and a push from the wind, they decided to explore. As they climbed *(1)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   the pulled up roots, they found that the tree had left a huge hole in the earth. Being adventurous, they decided to see how far into the ground the hole went. What they found was an archaeologist's dream come true.  
     Under the fallen tree was a *(2)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   of caves. What was in these caves astounded the world. On the walls were pictures of animals. The pictures were actually quite *(3)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . There were deer and horses. They were running and swimming across rivers. When scientists studied the drawings, they found that they were very old. How old is very old? Well, these paintings were probably done between 13,000 and 15,000 B.C. Some scientists *(4)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   they could be from as far back as 25,000 B.C.  
     Fossils from animals *(5)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   as an *(6)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   had been found in the area before. The Lascaux cave drawings supported the idea that very *(7)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   men had hunted these animals thousands of years ago. Some of the paintings were as far off the ground as ten feet. This told scientists that the artist had to make some sort of scaffold for him to be able to create the drawings. They were not just "doodles" on the wall. They were planned drawings which described hunting situations to the viewer.  
     Perhaps these pictures were messages to *(8)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   hunters who used the caves as a camp. Perhaps the pictures were one tribe's way of bragging about their successes. Perhaps the pictures were an *(9)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   to preserve history before man knew how to communicate in *(10)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . The answer may never be known. But much can be learned from the drawings.  
     After World War II concluded, the Lascaux caves were opened to the public. Almost 1,200 people a day toured the caves and were awed by the paintings they viewed. Remember that the caves are closed up under ground. And people have to breathe while they are on this tour. That doesn't cause a problem until you realize that the tourists are exhaling carbon dioxide into the caves. The carbon dioxide began to damage the paintings. The first damage was noticed in 1955. It wasn't until 1963 that the caves were finally closed to the public.  
     Closing the caves gave scientists a rare *(11)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . They built a model of two of the caves called Lascaux II. They created a shell and coated the inside of the shell with concrete to resemble the walls of the original caves. They recreated the paintings found on the walls of the original caves using the same materials that the cave dwellers would have used. Their paint colors were made from ochre, charcoal, and iron oxides. These are all materials found in *(12)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . Lascaux II was open to the public in 1983. People can now see what was found on the original cave walls without taking the chance of destroying these *(13)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   of art from 20,000 years ago.  
     The four boys who made this wonderful discovery have long been forgotten. But the discovery itself has *(14)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   a part of the history of

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*(15)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  .

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1. | The Lascaux caves are in France. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  False http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  True | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 2. | Where were the caves located? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Under a fallen tree http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  On the side of a hill http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Under a river http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  On top of a mountain | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 3. | What did the pictures show? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Animals http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Children http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Men http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  Women | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 4. | What did the height of some of the pictures tell scientists? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 5. | What did the artists use to paint the pictures? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 6. | Why were the caves closed to visitors? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 7. | What did scientists do so that visitors can still see the cave paintings? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 8. | The Lascaux cave paintings might be 200,000 years old. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  False http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  True | |

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| **Answer Key** |

     It was a crisp autumn day in September of 1940. Four teenage boys and a pet dog were exploring the hills and woods near the village of Montignac in France. They ran through the tall grass. They climbed mounds of dirt to play "King of the Mountain." When they found a large, old tree which had fallen from age and a push from the wind, they decided to explore. As they climbed ***(1)*  among** the pulled up roots, they found that the tree had left a huge hole in the earth. Being adventurous, they decided to see how far into the ground the hole went. What they found was an archaeologist's dream come true.  
     Under the fallen tree was a ***(2)*  series** of caves. What was in these caves astounded the world. On the walls were pictures of animals. The pictures were actually quite ***(3)*  realistic**. There were deer and horses. They were running and swimming across rivers. When scientists studied the drawings, they found that they were very old. How old is very old? Well, these paintings were probably done between 13,000 and 15,000 B.C. Some scientists ***(4)*  believe** they could be from as far back as 25,000 B.C.  
     Fossils from animals ***(5)*  such** as an ***(6)*  auroch** had been found in the area before. The Lascaux cave drawings supported the idea that very ***(7)*  early** men had hunted these animals thousands of years ago. Some of the paintings were as far off the ground as ten feet. This told scientists that the artist had to make some sort of scaffold for him to be able to create the drawings. They were not just "doodles" on the wall. They were planned drawings which described hunting situations to the viewer.  
     Perhaps these pictures were messages to ***(8)*  future** hunters who used the caves as a camp. Perhaps the pictures were one tribe's way of bragging about their successes. Perhaps the pictures were an ***(9)*  attempt** to preserve history before man knew how to communicate in ***(10)*  writing**. The answer may never be known. But much can be learned from the drawings.  
     After World War II concluded, the Lascaux caves were opened to the public. Almost 1,200 people a day toured the caves and were awed by the paintings they viewed. Remember that the caves are closed up under ground. And people have to breathe while they are on this tour. That doesn't cause a problem until you realize that the tourists are exhaling carbon dioxide into the caves. The carbon dioxide began to damage the paintings. The first damage was noticed in 1955. It wasn't until 1963 that the caves were finally closed to the public.  
     Closing the caves gave scientists a rare ***(11)*  opportunity**. They built a model of two of the caves called Lascaux II. They created a shell and coated the inside of the shell with concrete to resemble the walls of the original caves. They recreated the paintings found on the walls of the original caves using the same materials that the cave dwellers would have used. Their paint colors were made from ochre, charcoal, and iron oxides. These are all materials found in ***(12)*  nature**. Lascaux II was open to the public in 1983. People can now see what was found on the original cave walls without taking the chance of destroying these ***(13)*  works** of art from 20,000 years ago.  
     The four boys who made this wonderful discovery have long been forgotten. But the discovery itself has ***(14)*  become** a part of the history of ***(15)*  mankind**.

Answers to Reading Comprehension Questions  
  
**1**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  True  
**2**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Under a fallen tree  
**3**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Animals  
**4**  Possible answer: Some of the pictures were so far up the wall that a scaffold had to have been built to hold the artist. The pictures were planned. They weren't just scribbled on the wall.  
**5**  Possible answer: The artists used materials found in nature. They used ochre, iron oxide, and charcoal.  
**6**  Possible answer: So many tourists came through the caves that the carbon dioxide they breathed started to destroy the pictures.  
**7**  Possible answer: Scientists built a model of two of the caves and painted copies of the pictures using the same kind of paints the artists used. People can now visit Lascaux II.  
**8**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  False