

**INVESTIGATION QUESTION**

What does cave art tell us about the cognitive and social lives of early Homo sapiens?

**HYPOTHESIS**

*Hint: try writing it as "If \_\_\_\_\_, then \_\_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_\_."*

**MATERIALS**

*brown paper, charcoal or earthy-tone crayons, natural pigments if available*

**PROCEDURE**

*Summarize what you did in your own words.*

**Cave Art Analysis Table**

Cave Site	Location	Age (years)	What Is Depicted	Why It Is Significant
Chauvet				
Lascaux				
Altamira				
El Castillo (Spain)				

**ANALYSIS**

*What themes appear most often in cave art across different sites and cultures? What might this suggest about early human concerns and experiences?*

**CONCLUSION**

*Some researchers argue cave art is evidence of symbolic thinking -- the ability to represent ideas with images. Why is symbolic thinking considered a major cognitive milestone? What other behaviors also show symbolic thinking?*

**CONNECT IT**

*Recent research suggests some cave art in Spain may be 65,000 years old, predating the arrival of modern humans in Europe. Look up this debate. What evidence exists, and why are some scientists skeptical?*

**THINK FURTHER**

*Cave paintings survived for tens of thousands of years. What does the act of making art that might outlast you tell us about how early humans thought about time, memory, and community?*

**ADDITIONAL NOTES**