**Literary Arts 9**

**Prehistoric Art DVG**

**Paleolithic** (Old Stone Age – 30,000 BCE)

**Mesolithic** (Middle Stone Age – 8000-3000 BCE)

**Neolithic** (New Stone Age – 3000 – 1500 BCE)

* **Megalith** – large hewn stone used in construction of monumental, prehistoric sculpture
* **Monolithic** – large single piece of stone
* **Monumental** – in art history, any work of art of simplicity and grandeur, regardless of its size
* **Technology** – the way people invent things to make their lives easier, or to do something better, smarter or more efficiently; advances in society

CONCEPTS

* *Realistic* as opposed to *natural*
* Abstract thought, the afterlife, and effects of time
* The Power of the Image

TECHNIQUES AND MATERIALS

* Art Tools
* Pigment & Binder
* Palimpsest Effect
* Brevel Perspective

MORE TERMS

* Altamira & Lascaux
* Cromlech
* Menhir
* Relief Sculpture
* Shaman
* Utilitarian Art
* Venus Figure

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Work** | **Period** | **Description** |
| 1. Well Scene
 | Paleolithic |  |
| 1. Bison With Turned Head
 | Paleolithic |  |
| 1. Venus of Willendorf
 | Paleolithic  |  |
| 1. Stonehenge
 | Neolithic |  |

**Great Stuff and Junk**

Mental attributes associated with the creation of art - mental conception of an image, intent to communicate, and attribution of meaning to an image. Each of these abilities existed separately in the mind of Neanderthals, as indicated by the tools they made, their communication system, and their ability to interpret animal tracks – but they could not be combined. Artistic ability only emerged as a product of the cognitive fluidity of the modern human mind.

Why do humans give so much time, thought, and prestige to make-believe in the world of books, movies, and visual art? Dutton (professor at Canterbury) explains how the arts became a universal and crucial aspect of human behavior; integrating philosophy, art theory, and common sense to build a solid argument that our “art instinct” evolved in the Pleistocene as risk-free way to test situations, pass on information, and display fitness and intelligence.

The infinite life of the arts is sparked by faith; an unchangeable essence, regardless of wars, interruptions, or neglect. The arts outlive governments, dogmas, and the cultures which produce them. Because they are the essence of reality they cannot be totally destroyed. They are the true historians – all that is left when the dust and ruins are cleared away.”

 The Art Instinct by Denis Dutton

Found in the fissure of a cave in the Caucasus; a 30,000 BCE knotted and dyed (red, black, turquoise, and violet) piece of a textile.

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He who works with his hands is a laborer.

He who works with his hands and his head is an artisan.

But he works with his hands, his head and his heart is an artist.

Author unknown

In 1780 John Adams wrote a letter to his wife saying: “I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. My sons ought to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history and naval architecture, navigation, commerce and agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry and porcelain.”

“Art washes from the soul the dust of everyday life.” - Picasso

“The world is but a canvas to our imaginations.” - Thoreau

**Hidden Landscapes Project**

In 1620 Duke of Buckingham had his men excavate right in the center of the monument.

Subsequent digs destroyed prehistoric features.

There was no “treasure.”

It was thought that first stones were erected around 26000 BCE but we know now that centuries of activity occurred before.

Geophysicists have made the first detailed underground survey of the area surrounding Stonehenge (totals more than 4 sq. miles).

* They developed software to process the 40-50 gigabytes of raw data.
* Mapped variations in the earth’s magnetic field.
* New radiocarbon dating techniques.
* GPS-guided versions that scan pinpoint discoveries to within on centimeter.
* Ground-penetrating radars that scan the ground to detect structures yards below the surface produce a three-dimensional photograph of the area.

Found 15 unknown Neolithic monuments: henges, barrows, segmented ditches and pits.

Was Stonehenge a temple, parliament, a healing ground, or graveyard?

People traveled hundreds of miles to visit it….why?

There is evidence for complex liturgical movement …..it is a ‘theatrical” way along the line of sunrise of the summer solstice…..*Jerusalem Syndrome:* the feeling of intense emotion experienced by pilgrims on first sighting of the Holy City.

*A New View of Ancient Ground*

Subterranean Features Detected by

the Stonehenge *Hidden Landscapes Project*

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