

# Cave Paintings

## Materials:

- \* Prang semi-moist watercolors
- \* Prang peel- off charcoal pencil- soft
- \* Celluclay instant paper mache
- \* prang ready to use tempera yellow, white, brown, and black.
- \* Activ-wire mesh- large
- \* Snow dazzle giant flake glitter
- \* Sand dazzle glitter sand
- \* Zip lock bag
- \* Measuring cup
- \* Sheet plastic or garbage bag
- \* Rolling pin

## Introduction:

Cave paintings have been found primarily in France, Spain, and Australia. However they have also been found and documented in Mexico, India, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Russia. Perhaps the most famous caves and the ones most documented for art history, are those of Lascaux, France. Discovered in September of 1940 by a group of archeologists. The caves have since been closed to the public for preservation- and life sized models of the more famous sections have been made for people to visit and observe.

## Cave Surfaces to Paint:

Mix celluclay according to package directions- using 4 cups warm water per lb of material. Mix and knead well until smooth and elastic. Easiest mixing is done by placing all materials in a plastic zip lock bag- push out excess air- zip and work until clay like. Celluclay will form a cohesive ball in the bag when it is fully activated. Either bright white or original grey work fine. For more advanced technique- use a small amount tempera as part of the mix water- to dye the celluclay. When forming cave surfaces 2 or 3 mixed colors will look more stone like. Add small amounts of the snow dazzle giant flake glitter when forming. Take a ball of prepared celluclay about the size of your fist- lay it between sheets of plastic and roll with a rolling pin until flat and about 3/16" thick. Peel back the top layer of plastic and smooth the surface with fingers, craft stick or palette knife and a bit of water. For larger caves- use more celluclay. For very dimensional caves- form a base out of activ-wire mesh (folding under edges and handle wearing gloves for protection) as a support. Cave surfaces may be draped or allowed to dry as flat as desired, dry celluclay will flatten if sprayed lightly with water and ironed to "relax." For a very stone like surface sprinkle a bit of sand dazzle glitter sand on to the rolled out surface - cover and roll again lightly before final arrangement and drying. Caves can also be painted wet and draped or shaped then dried.

## Painting:

Using a charcoal pencil- sketch very generally the animals to be painted- adjusting to make the image fit the "cave" you made. Using water colors- paint your animals. Remember- you can go back and add additional layers of color and details as they dry and final details may be added with another round of charcoal pencils. Be sure to sign and date your cave!