



UPSC  
CSE

# An Introduction to Indian Art

FOR UPSC - CSE

# Chapter - 1

## Prehistoric Rock paintings



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# Introduction



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# Prehistoric Paintings or rock art

- ▶\* The word prehistoric tells that there is no written understandable evidences were available
- ▶\* The information about paintings from prehistoric period is collected by Excavation
- ▶\* The rock paintings are found from upper paleolithic age, Mesolithic age and Chalcolithic age. people from ages before either didn't made any paintings or they couldn't survive environment and time.
- ▶\* Paintings are oldest form of art people used it to convey messages, to decorate their caves and also to warn others.
- ▶\* First painting was discovered in 1867 by archeologist Archibald Campbell Carlyle



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- ▶ \* Rock paintings tells us about lifestyle of stone age people.
- ▶ \* In India rock paintings are located in several districts of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Uttarakhand, most important are
  - ▶ - Lakhudiyar ( Barechinna, Uttarakhand )
  - ▶ - Bhimbetka ( Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh )
  - ▶ - Jogi Mara ( Amarnth, Madhya Pradesh )

# Rock Paintings



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# Paintings from Upper Paleolithic age

- \* Paintings or sketches from upper paleolithic age are very minimalist and theme is linear representation
- \* Humans are represented as stick figures, animals are represented in realistic manner
- \* Wavy lines, geometric shapes and symbols, animals like fox, lizard and long snouted animal.
- \* Richest paintings are from Vindhya ranges



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# Paintings from Mesolithic age

- \* The themes and variety of paintings increased, people became more creative and vivid in explaining.
- \* Hunting scenes were mostly drawn along with humans wearing simple cloths, masks and ornaments.
- \* A lot of animals were shown.
- \* Scenes have become much more dramatic.
  - Humans chasing animals and animals chasing humans
  - Childrens playing and men dancing
  - Hunting scene where group of men trying to kill a bison with injured humans laying on ground
  - Humans are shown much more social.



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# Paintings from Chalcolithic age

\* Vividness and Vitality is decreased as compared to before.

\* Colors started to appear in shades to depict multidimensional effect

\* Paintings have been found on high rocks and tall ceilings of caves

\* wide variety of colors were used made from natural minerals like

- Red from hematite
- Green from Chalcedony
- White from limestone

These colors were powdered and mixed with animal fat or tree resin then used as paint, this mixture used to react with minerals in rock that is why these paintings survived for so long and still going.



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