

# THE ART OF THE HUNTERS

## I. THE CAVE DRAWINGS

### 1. Look at the key words below. Using the dictionary look up the Slovak equivalents

toros, dwelling, discover, magic work, wizard, culture, gallery, Venus, brush, hollowed –out bone, clay, temple, priest, hedge,

#### The first cave drawings discovered.....

Once upon a time a dog of a hunter fell into a hole that was the entry to a cave. The cave used to be the dwelling of the Stone Age Men. The hunter entered the cave to find some traces of these people. He had a daughter who was walking in the cave when the light of her candle revealed red and white picture of a bison. 'Toros!' she shouted excitedly to her father. Soon afterwards experts came to examine the drawing and found more examples of cave-dwellers' art. The Altamira in Spain was discovered.



*A Toros in Altamira, Spain painted by red and black colour.  
Discovered in 1879 by a 5-years old girl Maria de Sautuola.*

### 2. There was another cave like Altamira discovered in France and this cave is called.....



*Lascaux in France*

### 3. Read the following article about the cave drawings and then answer the questions.

The artists used stone tools, brushes and sometimes hollowed – out bones to blow the colouring on the wall. The oldest pictures are just scratched outlines. Later ones are coloured

black, white, brown, red and yellow. All the drawings show animals, which were hunted – mammoth, deer, bison. The pictures themselves show hunting scenes. Sometimes the animals' insides like the heart, stomach, are drawn outside the animal. The drawings were often painted on the top of each other.

The drawing was a way of making magic work, or of bringing good luck. Many footprints have been found on the hardened clay floor in front of the pictures. The whole area would become a magic or sacred place. Perhaps the hunters danced in front of the drawings to make the magic work. Perhaps they celebrated when they returned with the food. These caves may have been the first temples and their artists the first priests.

About 10 000 BC a warmer climate caused larger animals could not survive in such conditions. They moved elsewhere or died out. Cave magic did not longer produce a successful hunt so the wizard – artists gave up their work. People moved to the river valleys. The caves grew empty and silent until their beauties and mysteries were revealed to the modern world.

§ What kind of tools did the hunters use to paint?

§ What kind of colours did they use?

§ What did the drawings mean for them?

§ What do the footprints in front of the drawings reveal to us?

§ Why are these caves called the first temples?

#### 4. Venus

**Venus** was a small woman figure made of stone, clay or mammoth tusk. It was a symbol of motherhood. Among the best known Venuses in Slovakia belong Moravian Venus, Oborinian Venus and Venus of Nitriansky Hrádok.



*Moravian Venus*

*Venus from Nitriansky Hrádok*

*Oborinian Venus*

**Look at the 2 Slovak coin. What kind of Venus is shown on the coin?**

**2Sk**

**Characterise the position of a woman in the society.**

**What did Venus symbolise?**

**What represents the Slovak Stone Age art?**

## ***II. ARCHITECTURE***

### **1. MEGALITHS.**

**Read the following articles and answer the questions below.**

Another source of the early people's culture and art is a grave. They often buried the corpse with weapons, pots, jewellery which they believed would be needed in the after – life. Early Europeans sometimes dug mass graves made up of a number of rooms connected by passages, a sort of house of the dead. Such tombs were often formed from rock covered by earth. The examples of such tombs can be seen in Malta and at New Grange in Ireland.

Not all stone monuments were graves. Megaliths, massive stones, were grouped in circles for religious or other purposes. One of the best known is Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain in Southern England. The construction started by Stone Age workers in c 2000 BC and finished by Bronze Age people 500 years later. The similar ring was also found in Malta.



In about 44 BC Diodorus, a Roman historian gave the explanation of why Stonehenge was built. The stones at Stonehenge are arranged in two circles, one inside the other. The outer circle consists of larger, 4 meters high stones and the inside one of smaller bluish stones. In the middle there is thick grit board , perhaps an altar. Some experts thought that Stonehenge was some sort of calendar. The Sun played an important role for the early peoples. Stonehenge was a building that showed time.

**This island is situated in the north and the land is fertile and productive of every crop. Leto (mother of the Roman sun god, Apollo) was born on this island, and for that reason Apollo is honored among the people..... and there is a magnificent sacred spot with a notable temple which is adorned with many offerings and is round.**

- 1. Where is Stonehenge situated?**
- 2. What are the Megaliths?**
- 3. Why are the graves important for the archeologists?**
- 4. When did they start constructing Stonehenge?**
- 5. How does Diodorus describe Salisbury Plain?**
- 6. Which God has Stonehenge been sacred to?**
- 7. What was the purpose of the Stonehenge?**
- 8. Where else in the world can someone find megaliths?**

## **2. PROJECT WORK**

You are going to make a project on the art of the hunters. You can choose one of the following three topics.

### **1. Stone Age Tools**

### **2. Cave drawings**

### **3. Stonehenge**

1. When you decide for the first project you can make hand-axes, wooden spears or other tools.

You will need stones, wooden sticks, A3 poster, glue, string and good ideas.

2. When you decide for the second project you should be good at drawing, as you will draw Stone Age animals as Stone Age hunters did, keeping all the rules we read about.

You will need A3 poster, pencils and paints and good ideas.

3. When you decide for the third project you should bring a picture of Stonehenge.

You will need A3 poster, some empty matchboxes, glue and good ideas.