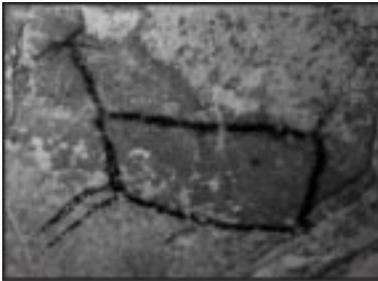




MVAC at the University
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www.uwlax.edu/mvac

**This year's theme:
Rock Art**



This year we are switching our MVAC Education newsletter to a digital format. We will continue to include content, lesson plans and resources for teachers to use in their classrooms. The new digital newsletter format will be issued three times a year.

Please let me know what you think of this change and any suggestions you have for new material to include. You can contact me at (608) 785-8454 or dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu. Enjoy the newsletter!

Jean Dowiasch, Editor

Archaeology Education Program

Volume 12, Number 3

Spring 2004

Rock Carvings and Paintings

Why did people make rock art?

Since the people who made the rock art are no longer living, we can only guess at who created the images and what their purpose was. Some Aboriginal groups in Australia today use rock art sites that have been used for generations. In these cases, present-day images may offer clues about why ancient rock art was composed. In most cases, however, the identity and rationale of the rock art has been lost.

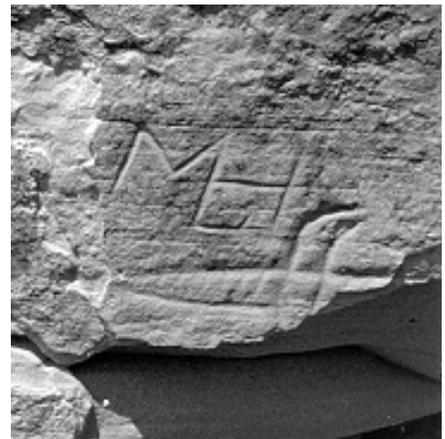
There can be many meanings for rock art since there are many different subjects and types of images, in diverse locations, made by a variety of people at different times in the past. Some possible purposes for rock art include: use in religious ceremonies, a way to pass on traditions, myths or stories, for counting, to act as warnings, or to convey messages or challenges. Rock art images might have been used to identify tribes or clans, as an insignia, to record individual or group achievements and exploits, as property markers, or even games. The list of possible purposes could go on and on. Archaeologists may never know exactly why the images were made.

How can rock art be preserved?

There are many things that threaten fragile rock art sites. Natural occurrences such as wind, water, freeze-thaw, plant roots, mosses and lichens; all work to destroy rock art. Additionally, modern humans can have disastrous effects on rock art through intentional and unintentional acts. It is obvious that graffiti or trying to remove rock art will damage the rock images. Other acts like touching, climbing upon, rubbing or drawing over these images might seem less destructive. However, coupled with the fragile nature of rock art and the effects of nature, even something as simple as touching rock art can damage it.

Rock art sites can never be replaced. Once they are destroyed, they are lost forever. There are some simple things that you can do to help preserve rock art listed on page 2.

At right: A bird petroglyph from Vernon County. The effects of erosion and graffiti can be seen in this image.





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*The activities on
this page will help
your students
experience what it
was like for early
rock art creators to
express their ideas.*

Rock Art Activity

LESSON PLANS

Ways to Preserve Rock Art

Don't touch. Touching rock art can cause small particles on the surface of the rock to fall off.

Don't make rubbings of the rock art. Pressing against the rock art can knock off tiny grains or small pieces of the rock art, changing the look of the image forever.

Don't build fires near rock art. Fire can cause damage by depositing soot on the surface of the images and can fracture the rock.

Don't remove rock art. Some selfish people think they can own rock art and try to cut the images from the rock wall. Leave it intact for other to appreciate.

Don't redraw or retrace faint rock art. Besides damaging the original art, your efforts can not duplicate the original.

Don't paint or carve over existing rock art. Don't attach signs, fences or other objects to rock art surfaces.

Don't disturb the area around rock art. There may be valuable information still to be discovered at the site. Don't dig. Watch where you are walking. If you find artifacts at the site, don't take them or move them. Archaeologists may be able to learn more about the site by looking at things that might seem insignificant to a non-archaeologist.

Preservation

Previous newsletter articles have introduced ways to create your own rock art, such as using a nail to carve designs into plaster of Paris, or using crayons and charcoal to draw on a brown paper bag.

Rock art is a fragile and limited resource. One way to understand the importance of preservation would be to think about the images you may have created in the previous exercises.

Imagine displaying your images in your classroom or at home. One day when you view them, you see that someone has written or drawn over your original image. How does that make you feel? Does the image look like your original? Is there anything that can be done to bring your image back to its original state? Think about how this might be similar to people destroying rock art.

Rock Art Resources

Book Review

Title: Young Goat's Discovery

Author: Arline Warner Tinus

Publisher: Red Crane Books; Santa Fe, NM, 1994

Age Range: grades 2 - 4

Fictional tale of the discovery of a rock art image by a goat and his young shepherd. The story explains the Hopi lifestyle, some of their beliefs and the use or purpose of rock art to its people.

Video Review

Title: Marks of the Ancestors

Publisher: Echo Productions; Flagstaff, AZ

Age Range: high school to adult

In special places throughout the Southwest, unusual artistic images appear on boulders, cave walls and cliff faces. These "rock art" sites were once considered meaningless scribbles made by ancient cultures hundreds, even thousands of years ago. This video explores six different regions in Arizona with archaeologists and Native Americans. Together they share the meanings of these symbols, shed new light on the ancient people who created them, and suggest how this unique heritage can be protected.



Places to Visit

Jeffers Petroglyphs, Jeffers, MN, (507) 697-6321.

Located just a few miles northeast of the town of Jeffers, this site is open during the summer months. The park has nearly 2,000 rock carvings. An exhibit shelter offers clues to the meaning of the carvings.

Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center's web site at: www.uwlax.edu/mvac has some pictures of rock art in its *Specific Sites* section.



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The book and video review, and places to visit can be used as supplemental information for your lessons. Let us know if you have found any great resources we can share with our readers.

The rock art at left shows a pictograph of a bison from the Tainter Cave site.

Rock art photos courtesy of Robert F. Boszhardt.



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MVAC educators receive \$257,471 in grants

Money will help *educate area teachers* in archaeology,
math

The public is accustomed to hearing the bad news about serious cuts to education dollars. Now for some good news – area teachers will be able to learn new information to apply in their classrooms, at no charge to the teacher or the school district, thanks to the efforts of the staff of UW-La Crosse's Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center. Bonnie Christensen and Connie Arzigian applied for, and earned, two grants totaling more than a quarter million dollars.

The first grant will allow middle school teachers to experience archaeology, then develop a curriculum to use with their students. The second grant will help math teachers learn more about statistics, probability and sampling. Both opportunities are available to both public and private school teachers in Wisconsin.

The **Archaeology in the Classroom** grant is for two years with the first year of the project being funded for \$38,301. The second year is contingent on funding availability but would be for an additional \$63,326.

The grant is in partnership with the La Crosse and Cashton School Districts. A Wisconsin ESEA Improving Teacher Quality Higher Education Program funds this project. The program is an opportunity for 4th to 8th grade teachers to experience archaeology in the field, then use it to integrate their curriculum. The teachers will create an inquiry-based integrated (science, math, language arts, social studies) curriculum that will be posted to the Internet, and will design a web-based course for future teachers. Participants will earn 9-12 tuition waived graduate credits and receive \$100-200 of resource materials.

The **Enhancing Math Skills** grant is for one year for \$155,844 and is in partnership with the La Crosse, Onalaska and Holmen School Districts. This program is a professional development opportunity for middle school math teachers and is funded by a Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Mathematics and Science Program Partnerships Grant. The MVAC staff will be working with UW-L mathematics professor Helen Skala. Participants will learn more about statistics, probability and sampling.

Each participant will receive a \$2,000 stipend, and resource materials totaling \$200-300. The grant will also cover the cost of a substitute teacher, so the participant can spend a half day each month during the school year in the program.

Teachers interested in learning more about the programs can log onto MVAC's web site at www.uwlax.edu/mvac/EventsDisplays/teacher.htm or contact MVAC Education Director Bonnie Christensen at (608) 785-6473.



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Announcements

La Crosse School District Funds

Each elementary and middle school in the La Crosse School District has been awarded \$200 to use toward MVAC resources. Special thanks to Mark White and Sandra Fuhrman, the district's Supervisors of Humanities for their continued support of this program. Teachers interested in using the funds can contact Jean Dowiasch at (608) 785-8454.

Matching Funds Grant

The UW-La Crosse Foundation has awarded MVAC a \$2,250 grant to help teachers "double their money" when using MVAC's educational resources. Application forms to apply for the grant are on the MVAC web site under the **Educators** section. Teachers who would like more information on this program can contact Jean Dowiasch at (608) 785-8454.

Summer Events

Contact MVAC at (608) 785-8454 for more information. For online registration, go to the UW-La Crosse Continuing Education web page at www.uwlax.edu/ContEd/.

YOUTH EVENTS

Introduction to Archaeology - grades 1-4

Date: July 13 and 14, 2004

Location: 311 Wimberly Hall,
UW-La Crosse campus

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fee: \$90 (includes travel fee)

Introduction to Archaeology - grades 5-9

Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Location: 311 Wimberly Hall,
UW-La Crosse campus

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fee: \$50 (includes travel fee)

Middle School Field Experience - grades 5-9

Date: July 7 and 8, 2004

Location: 311 Wimberly Hall,
UW-La Crosse campus

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fee: \$125 (includes travel fee)

Arrowheads, Rocks & Dinosaurs - grades 4-6

Date: Friday, July 9, 2004

Location: 311 Wimberly Hall,
UW-La Crosse campus

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fee: \$50 (includes supplies)

TEEN AND ADULT EVENTS

Archaeology Field Experience

Date: July 26 - 28, 2004

Time: July 26: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
July 27 & 28: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: 259 Cartwright Center,
UW-La Crosse campus

Fee: \$300

Archaeology Field School

Date: July 26 - 30, 2004

Time: July 26: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
July 27 - 30: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: 259 Cartwright Center,
UW-La Crosse campus

Fee: \$450