



These pictures are from **cave paintings** made by prehistoric people. Some of them are very famous indeed, like the **Altamira Cave** in **Spain** or the **Lascaux Paintings** in **France**.

Why did they do it?

There are lots of different ideas for why prehistoric people made cave paintings. Some think they did it as a way of remembering what they had done, others say it was a way of having good luck – if you paint a picture of capturing an animal in a hunt, then you will catch an animal in a hunt!



Why did they do it?

Maybe they just did it for fun – like these paintings in the **Cueva de las Manos** in Argentina. The name means the **Cave of the Hands**, and I think you can see why!

Try these ideas....

Activity Idea 1 – with an adult

With an adult's permission

- Find a piece of paper and stick it to a wall or the bottom of a table.
- You can then pretend to be in a cave and draw your own painting!
- Make sure you use **pencils** or **crayons** – because paint would be messy.

Activity Idea 2 – with an adult

The handprints on the walls of the **Cueva de las Manos** were made by blowing paint through a straw made of reeds around the hand, leaving a handprint shape. Try it out!

Use any straw with some paint to try to create a hand shape.

You have to be very careful that you don't get paint in your mouth – so best to do this with an adult!