

# **Prehistory Pictographs for Grades 1 – 3**

Vera Trembach, Freelance Artist and Art Instructor for Children, Saskatoon, SK

*Students use the elements of shape: curved lines, straight lines, dots, circles, and angle lines, to create pictographs while learning about First Nations history.*

## **Concepts, Skills, and Objectives Covered in these activities**

Students will

- ✓ Learn about pictographs of native people of North America.
- ✓ Learn that pictographs were used thousands of years ago to communicate because an alphabet did not exist.
- ✓ Research on the Internet.
- ✓ Practice visual discrimination skills.
- ✓ Create a story in pictographs and tell it orally.
- ✓ Create art based on pictographs.

## **Resources**

I. With students do an image search on Bing or Goggle for prehistory pictographs. Have the students draw a chart or the ones you find, labeling each pictograph with what it represents.

II. Included pictographs, enlarge to 11 x 17 inches with a copier.

III. The online version of the *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* has information on pictographs found in Saskatchewan.

IV. This Virtual Saskatchewan website has great information on pictographs found on the Churchill River system.

[http://www.virtualsk.com/current\\_issue/visions\\_on\\_rock.html](http://www.virtualsk.com/current_issue/visions_on_rock.html)

V. In a canyon near the Rio Grande River in Texas, pictographs were found. This website has great photos.

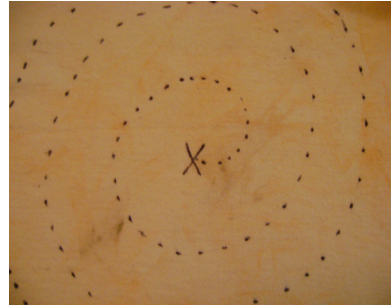
<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/plateaus/kids/parade.html>

## **Pictograph Storytelling Hide**

Native American Sioux drew visual stories in a spiral shape. They used pictographs to tell those stories. Make a pictograph storytelling hide for students to tell a story visually and orally. Keep at a learning centre for additional enjoyment by the students.

Materials

- ✓ pictograph images (included)
- ✓ chamois for the hide
- ✓ black permanent marker
- ✓ rainbow rocks or flat, smooth rocks. Rainbow rocks can be purchased at a greenhouse that sells landscaping rocks.



How to make:

1. Clean and dry the rocks.
2. Use permanent markers to draw a pictograph on each rock. Refer to the included pictographs and any you have found.
3. Cut the chamois to look like a hide. Draw a dotted spiral with black or a dark permanent marker. Start at the centre and draw the spiral from left to right in a counter clockwise direction.

### Oral Storytelling

Students make up a story using the pictograph rocks and the hide and tell it to the class.

### Visual Discrimination Activity

My Pre-K drawing class actually suggested this activity when they voluntarily matched the pictographs on the charts to the ones on the rocks.

### Art and Creative Writing Activity

Have students draw a story using pictographs. Lightly draw the spiral on a piece of crumpled butcher paper and draw the pictographs with black felt pen going around the spiral. Colour with coloured markers.

### Art Activity

Have students make their own pictograph rocks. Sharpie permanent fine tip markers work the best but make sure the room is well ventilated.

### **Story Robes**

Check out this interesting website about story robes and a great photograph of one. There is also a link to the Glenbow Museum for more information on the Blackfoot.

<http://www.glenbow.org/exhibitions/online/robes/srobe.htm>

### Art Activity

Students create a story robe using pictographs to tell a story.

### Materials

- ✓ butcher paper: Cut a large sheet for each student (3 ft by 4 ft).
- ✓ oil pastels

How to make:

Introduce the story robe to students. On scrap paper students draw a story using pictographs. Encourage students to make up their own in prehistory style.

Students crumple up paper and then lay it flat. Tear out a hide shape. Draw directly with pastels onto the butcher paper, telling their story with pictographs.

# PICTOGRAPHS



Bear alive



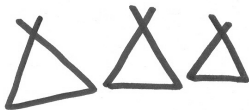
canoe



bird tracks



Bear dead



camp



beaver tail



buffalo



turtle



morning



night



rain



hot



strength



man



woman



sisters



brothers



friends



help



morning



night



rain



hot



strength



man



woman



sisters



lightning



village



wind



hunt



everybody



hills



mountains



snow



talk



grass



horse



horse tracks



drum



storm



leader