



Tour Theme: Archaeology (grades 6 to 8)

Sub Theme: Native Americans

Pre-Visit Activity #1

Rock Art?

Overview:

What can we learn from archaeology and why is it important? Why is the difference between a petroglyph and a pictograph? *A pictograph is a painting done with pigment on rock, while a petroglyph is an image pecked or scratched into rock.*

Objectives:

- Understand the importance of preserving artifacts.
- Observe petroglyphs and pictographs attributed to the Anasazi of the Southwest.
- Refine understanding of similarities and differences between graffiti and artifacts.

Materials:

- Variety of images showing petroglyphs and pictographs attributed to the Anasazi of southwestern United States. (Calendars can be a great source for these, as well as the worldwide web.)
- Large chart paper
- Large color markers
- Lined notebook paper
- pencils

Activity:

1. Introduce petroglyphs and pictographs covering the definitions, and identifying places where they have been found in and around southern Nevada (Red Rock Canyon and the Valley of Fire).
2. Distribute samples of the Anasazi wall art to small groups, or show to the whole group, allowing them time to observe and note details.
3. In groups of 4-5 the students will create a T-Chart on large chart paper to compare and contrast the petroglyphs and the pictographs.
4. Have small groups present their T-Charts to the whole group.
5. Take time to discuss and synthesize the comparisons. What animals are pictured? Why those animals? Do the groupings of petroglyphs and pictographs tell a story? What might have been the purpose of creating these symbols