

A Treasure Found and Copied



These are new words to practice.

Say each word 10 times.

* prehistoric

* vapor

* archeologists

* ventilation

* scaffolding

* replica

* tourists

* permitted

**Before or after reading the story, write one sentence
that contains at least one new word.**

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On September 12, 1940, four boys went into a deep hole they had accidentally discovered between the roots of a tree in France. The boys entered, hoping to find a secret underground passageway. Instead, they found a large cave. The walls and ceiling were covered with paintings over 17,000 years old. The boys had discovered a treasure of prehistoric art. They had found paintings drawn before the time of written history.

There were colorful pictures of giant bulls. One bull was over 18 feet (5.5 meters) long. There were colorful images of wild horses, goats, deer, cattle, and bears. Archeologists quickly came. Archeologists study ancient times and ancient peoples. How did the prehistoric artists paint high up on the walls? How did they paint the high ceilings? The archeologists came to find out.



The archeologists found holes in the wall. They found bits of wood. The holes and wood told the archeologists that the artists had used scaffolding. Scaffolding is a framework. To reach the high surfaces, the artists had built and stood on scaffolding.

When the Lascaux Cave was opened to the public in 1948, hundreds of people came every day. The number of tourists created problems. One problem was oxygen. The tourists were getting headaches. There was not enough oxygen inside the cave. One problem was keeping the paintings safe. People were breathing out carbon dioxide and water vapor. Their bodies were warming up the air. The warmed vapor-filled air condensed on the cool cave walls and formed tiny water droplets. The droplets were washing away the paintings!

A ventilation system was put in. The ventilation system brought in fresh air. It removed carbon dioxide. It kept the air cool. Over 1,000 people now came to the cave every day. But even with the ventilation system, the paintings were not safe. To save the treasure, tourists were no longer permitted. An exact replica, or copy, was built. Over 300,000 tourists visit the replica every year. Today, only 20 people are permitted to visit the real cave each week. The people can stay for only 35 minutes.

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After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

- This story is mainly about
 - art history.
 - why a replica was made.
 - what archeologists found.
 - a cave discovered in 1940.
- From the story, one can tell that
 - tourists are interested in prehistoric art.
 - tourists have no interest in seeing a replica.
 - tourists do not care about keeping the pictures safe.
 - tourists want to spend more than 35 minutes in the cave.
- Think about how the word *replica* relates to *copy*. Which words relate in the same way?

replica : copy

 - treasure : cave
 - oxygen : headache
 - archeologist : artist
 - scaffolding : framework
- Most likely, before the cave was discovered in 1940, the air inside it was
 - dry and filled with carbon dioxide.
 - dry and a cool, constant temperature.
 - moist and filled with carbon dioxide.
 - moist and a cool, constant temperature.
- How many years after its discovery was the cave opened to the public?
 - 2
 - 8
 - 18
 - 20