



Artifact 1A

## Artifact 1A: Cave Painting of Animals

This painting is a copy of one found at Lascaux. The part of the cave where the painting was found was closed to protect the art.

The painting was created about 17,000 years ago. It shows many prehistoric animals, such as bulls, bison, and horses.

The painters ~~used the cave's uneven walls as part of their~~ composition. At the lower left, a ledge juts out from the wall. The artists painted horses to look as if they are running along it.

Scientists have many ideas about why animal paintings were created. Some believe that the artists tried to capture the "magical powers" of certain animals. Some think the painters believed in spirits and created the art to honor or influence them. Some speculate that the cave was a place of worship and that paintings were used in rituals or ceremonies.





Artifact 1B

## **Artifact 1B: Cave Painting of Shapes and Handprints**

This painting was found in a cave in Argentina, South America. It shows a circular shape, a sticklike animal, and several handprints.

Paintings of shapes and handprints are fairly common in cave art. Their meaning, though, is a bit of a mystery. Many scientists believe that the handprints were the way an artist signed a painting. Some think geometric shapes had special meanings in rituals.

Researchers tried singing inside one painted cave in France. They discovered that the sound was loudest in the areas that were painted. They guess those areas were used for special gatherings.



Artifact 1C



## **Artifact 1C: Spear Thrower**

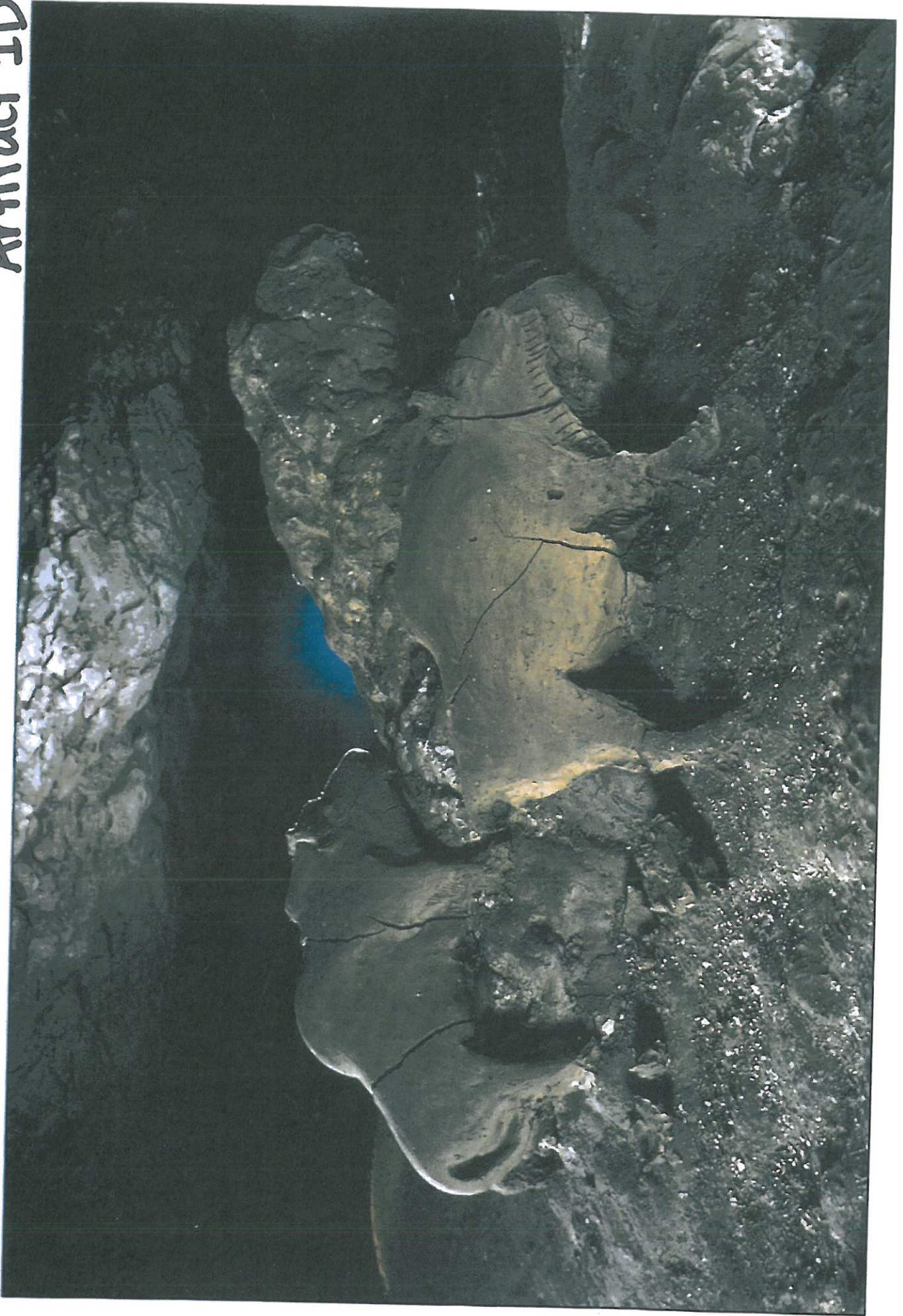
This prehistoric spear thrower was found in France. Made from a reindeer antler bone, it is 10 inches long. It was probably made about 18,000 years ago.

The spear thrower has a leaping horse carved into the top. The artist engraved, or carved, hundreds of tiny dashes to show details in the horse's head. The artist must have cared a great deal about decorating this important hunting tool.

Some scientists believe that the artist carved the horse for decoration. It could have been a good-luck charm to protect the hunter or make him or her more successful. It might have been related to the hunter's name. Or it could have been a way of identifying the clan that the hunter belonged to.



Artifact 1D

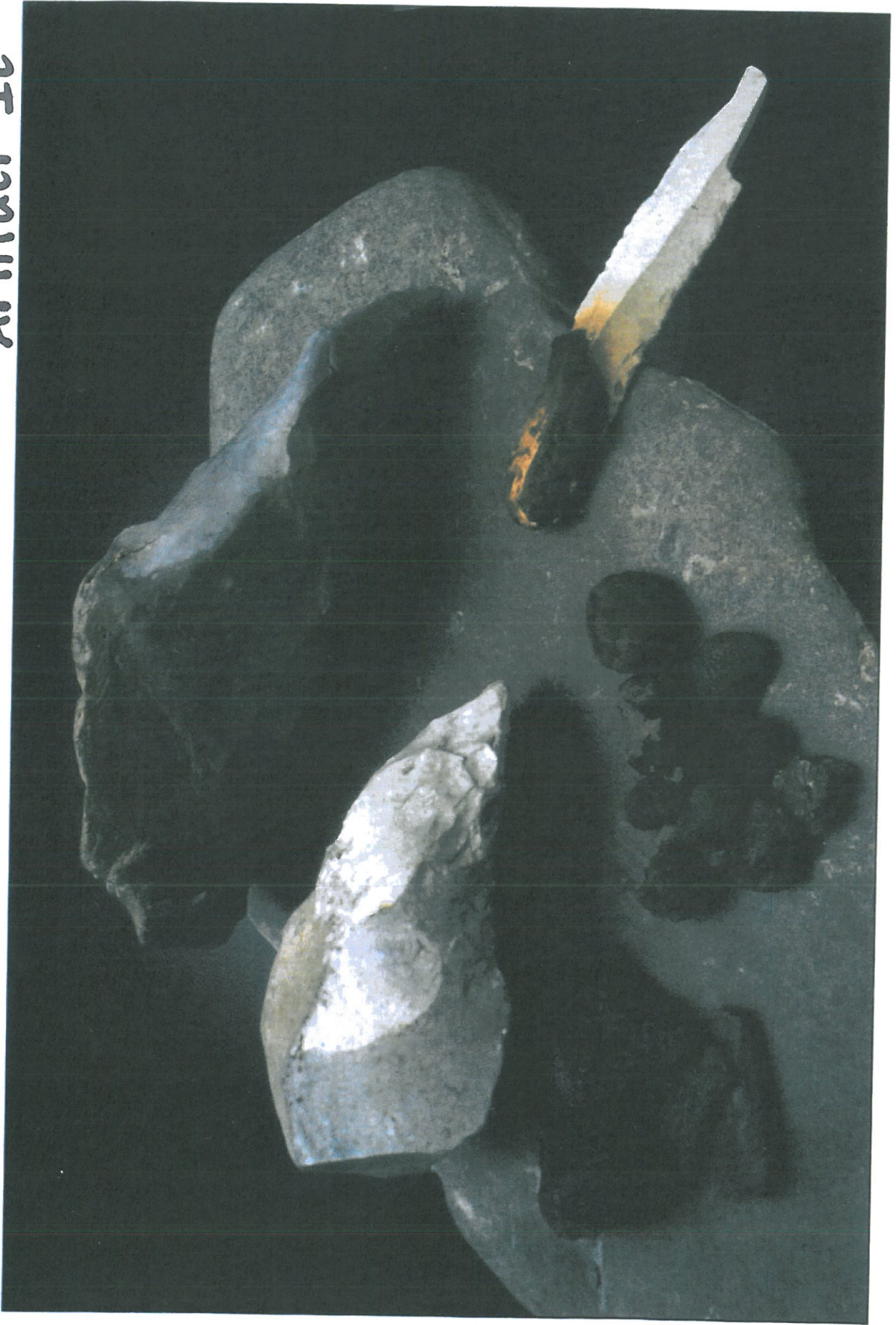


## Artifact 1D: Clay Sculptures

These clay sculptures of two bison were found in a low room, deep inside a cave in France. They were made about 10,000 to 14,000 years ago. They are 23 inches long. The artist sculpted them from gold-colored clay. Carved lines show details such as the animals' faces, coat markings, and the fringe of fur below their powerful necks. Scientists have two main ideas about why these sculptures were created. One is that the sculptures showed that the cave belonged to a certain clan. The other idea is that they were used in an important ceremony that was held deep inside the cave. It might have been a coming-of-age ceremony to show that a child had become an adult. One clue that supports this idea is that footprints of young people have been found near the sculptures.



Artifact 1E



## Artifact 1E: Cave Art Tools

The prehistoric tools and materials you see here include two piles of colored, rock-hard minerals and a grindstone for grinding the minerals. There are also a sculptor's pick and an engraving tool.

Scientists study tools like these and try to guess how they were used. For example, scientists believe that cave artists made paints by grinding colored minerals into powder. They probably mixed the powder with animal fat or vegetable oil to create various colors.

You've already seen how prehistoric artists engraved some of their art. For painting, they might have used brushes made of moss, fur, or human hair. They may also have blown paint through hollow bird bones to create softer textures, such as shaggy winter coats on horses.