

# Petroglyphs

***Petroglyphs*** are primitive drawings which are carved into stone. These carvings have been found on cliff walls, boulders and flat bedrock surfaces throughout Canada.

Large sections of these rock carvings or Petroglyphs have been found in Ontario and are believed to have been carved over a thousand years ago by early Algonquin people.

The rock carvings represent aspects of First Nations spirituality, including images of shamans, animals, reptiles, and, possibly, the Creator or “Great Spirit”.

Today, the First Nations people of Ontario (Art of our Region) call the carvings Kinomagewapkong, meaning “the rocks that teach” or “the Teaching Rocks”. The sites where these carvings are found are sacred places to the Ojibwa people.

The deep crevices in the rock are believed to lead to the spirit world. In some places underground water that runs beneath the rocks produce sounds interpreted by Aboriginal people as those of the Spirits speaking to them.

*Here are images of Petroglyphs:*





# Petroglyphs – Painting Activity

This activity is all about working with petroglyphs and exploring values in painting. Using your “Stonehenge” paper provided, you will learn techniques that will make your artwork come to life! Stonehenge paper is very expensive, so when you get your good piece, be very good to it as you aren’t getting another one ☺

## **Petroglyph Activity Instructions**

- Step 1:** Choose a petroglyph image from those on the next pages. Plan out your composition in thumbnail format. The petroglyph image must touch at least 2 sides of your frame. If you choose a very simple petroglyph that consists only of lines, you will need to add a second one. Make sure that the lines are exaggerated – extra thick! (Think wide, like a wide sharpie.)
- Step 2:** Create a border around the petroglyph, and all parts of it whether they are attached or not. This will be left white (the white of the page) later on.
- Step 3:** Use at least 4 lines, and draw them across your page, and through your petroglyph(s). Make it interesting by having them go in different directions. ***Do all this in your practice thumbnail sketches in your sketchbook.***
- Step 4:** Pick the thumbnail sketch that you feel is most successful. Remember – good balance, positive vs. negative space and following all the ‘rules’ in steps 1 to 3. Get a good piece of paper from your teacher, strips of masking tape and a board. Tape your paper down evenly so the tape will create a nice, white border.
- Step 5:** Redraw your chosen thumbnail sketch on your good paper. Remember to use very little pressure on your pencil when drawing so that if you have to erase, the lines will totally disappear and not leave dents/marks.
- Step 6:** Use the value scale blending and mixing techniques you have learned. You are going to create 3 values of red and 3 values of yellow paint. You are going to use these to fill in each of the shapes around the petroglyph – the intersecting lines make many shapes. Every time you come across a new shape you change the colour/shade.
- Step 7:** Paint the petroglyph design in grayscale, making sure to explore a variety of values to create depth.
- Step 8:** Carefully peel your masking tape border of, peeling away from the image slowly.

## Marking

<b>Petroglyph Marking Rubric</b>					
<b>Categories</b>	<b>50-59% (Level 1)</b>	<b>60-69% (Level 2)</b>	<b>70-79% (Level 3)</b>	<b>80-100% (Level 4)</b>	<b>Level</b>
<b>Application</b> <b>Transfer of knowledge and skills</b> -balance of composition -placement of petroglyph -use of negative/positive space -balance of shapes	- limited effectiveness	- some effectiveness	- considerable effectiveness	- high degree of effectiveness	
<b>Use of media</b> -paint techniques (values) -care and attention to media (clean, in the lines, careful with edges, etc.)	- uses media with limited effectiveness	- uses media with some effectiveness	- uses media with considerable effectiveness	- uses media with a high degree of effectiveness	
<b>Comments</b>					

### Petroglyphs - African



### Petroglyphs - Australian



### Petroglyphs - European



### Petroglyphs - North American



