



Name: _____

Book: Stone Age Boy

MF: Comprehension

Stone Age Treasure

Stone Age Treasure!

Scientists are rejoicing now that they can directly date Stone Age rock paintings discovered in southern Africa reliably for the first time.

The decorative images were first studied some years ago, in the late 1990s, by archaeologist Charles Dirine. However, until now, scientists have not been able to conclusively date the precious paintings, located in the heart of Botswana.

Stuart Jones, leader of the *Botswana Art Project*, states that huge advances in science and sufficient funding all contributed towards the investigation's success, "We are extremely happy with the study's findings and we believe our assessments will open doors for new investigations in the future."

The process of dating ancient artwork can often be tricky. The old paintings can often become mixed with newer materials leading to irregular findings.

Archaeologist Ben Walt explains: "Scientists have to ensure that they only extract what is necessary to ensure the dating of the piece. Often this might only be one square millimetre. Bearing this in mind, it is easy to see why the results can be so easily contaminated."



Figures of san cave paintings, Maloti-Drakensberg Park, Lesotho. Credit: De Agostini, S. Vannini Getty Images





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Read the Stone Age Treasure Article and answer the questions

1. What punctuation has the author included in the headline for effect?
2. Why do you think the first paragraph is in bold?
3. Did you enjoy the text? Explain your answer.
4. What is one question that you could ask Ben Walt?
5. What is one question that you could ask Charles Dirine?
6. What is one feature of a newspaper text?
7. Who first studied the paintings?
8. Where are the paintings located?
9. What was the name of the archaeology project?
10. How do you think Charles Dirine might feel about the new findings?



Can you draw your own cave paintings below?





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Read the Stone Age Treasure Article and answer the questions

1. Why do you think the author has chosen to include an exclamation mark in the headline?
2. Re-write the opening paragraph in your own words.
3. State three groups of people who might read this text.
4. State two questions that you could ask Ben Walt.
5. State two questions that you could ask Charles Dirine.
6. What features of newspaper report have been used in this text?
7. Who first studied the paintings?
8. Where are the paintings located?
9. Do you like the name of the archaeology project? Explain your answer.
10. What two things allowed the study to be a success?
11. Why can dating old paintings be a hard process?
12. True, false or don't know - Ben Walt was part of the archaeological study.
13. What does the word 'rejoice' mean?
14. How do you think Charles Dirine might feel about the new findings?





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Read the Stone Age Treasure Article and answer the questions

1. Give three alternative headlines for the article.
2. What is the main theme of the first paragraph?
3. Who do you think is the intended audience for this text?
4. List three questions that you could ask Ben Walt.
5. List three questions that you could ask Charles Dirine.
6. What features of a newspaper report have been included in this text?
7. What features of a newspaper report has the author not included in this text?
8. How could the writer have made this article more interesting?
9. Who first studied the paintings?
10. What does 'in the heart of Botswana' mean?
11. Choose a new name for the archaeology project and write it below.
12. Why can dating old paintings be a hard process? Use the text to support your answer.
13. True, false or don't know - Ben Walt was part of the archaeological study. Explain your answer.
14. What word in paragraph one tells you that the scientists are happy?
15. How do you think Charles Dirine might feel about the new findings?





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