The Earliest Artists

Paleolithic- “Stone Age”

What was life like, 17,000 years ago?

What did people wear?

Their tools were simple….

Where is Lascaux?

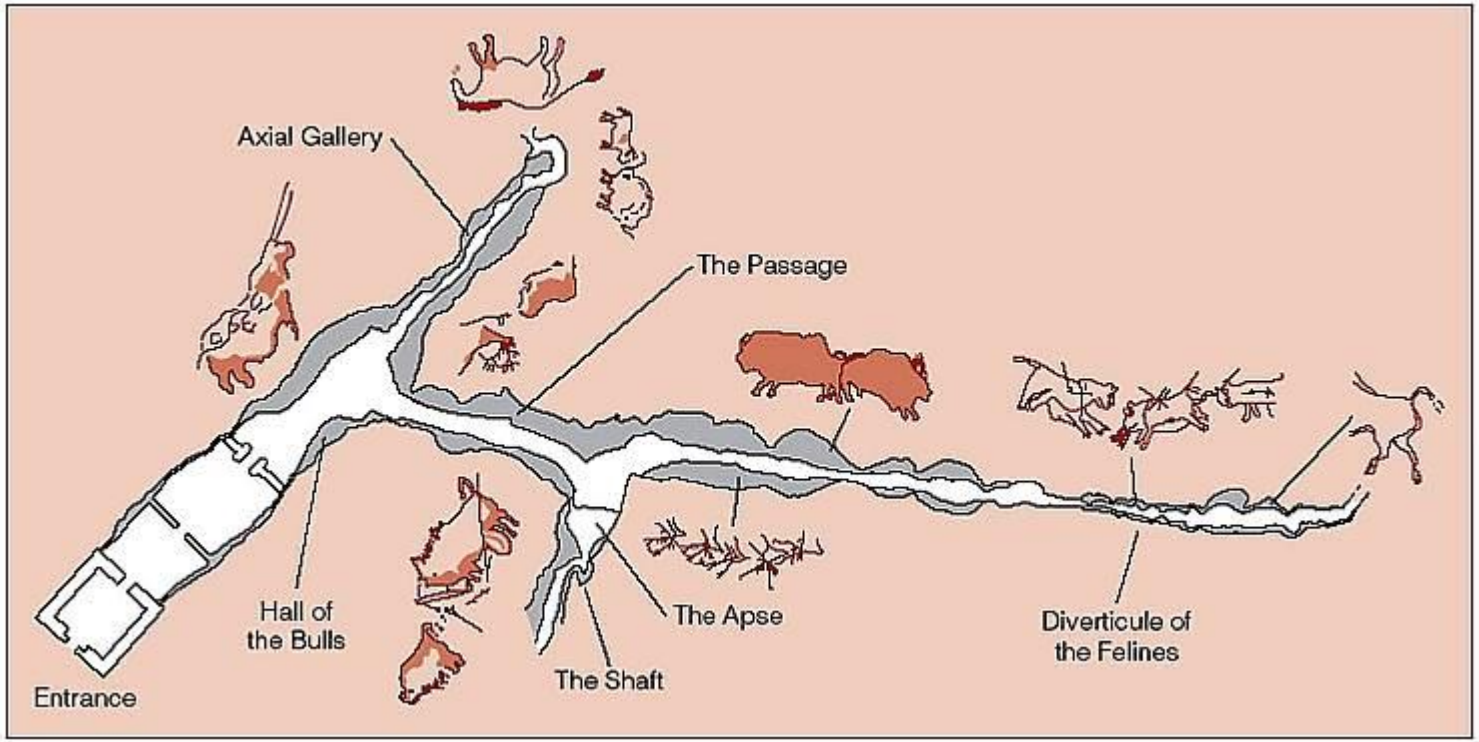
How was it discovered?

In 1940, as World War II was beginning, three French teenagers went on a walk that would change the course of Art History forever.

Their dog led them down a narrow entrance and into a cave.

Modern entrance to the cave

Lascaux consists of many chambers



They discovered a marvel of polychrome paintings

Images of fantastic beasts

And more beasts...

And more beasts….

And more beasts...

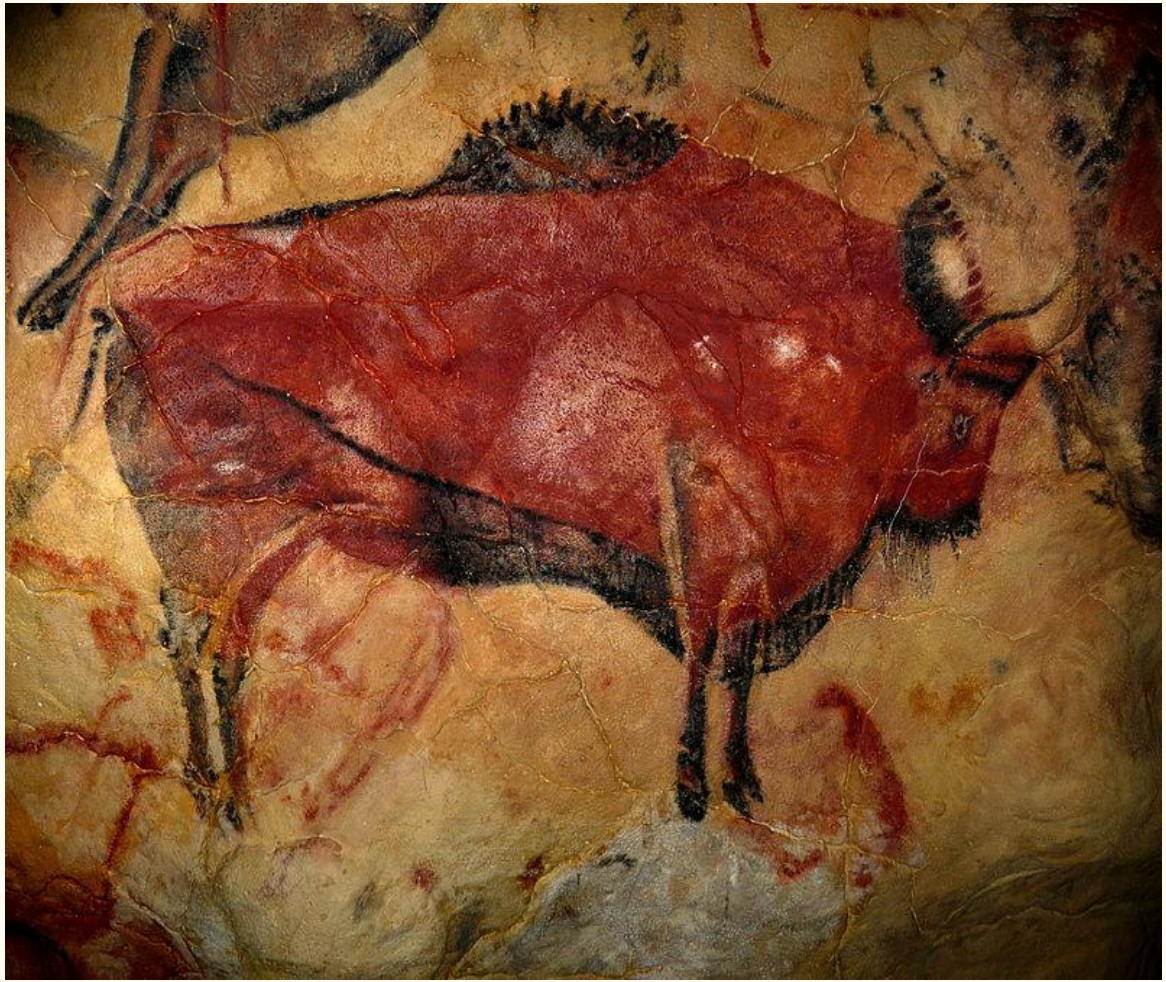
Altamira Spain

In Northern Spain, about 400 miles from Lascaux

Also roughly 17,000 years old

Discovered by a little girl in 1870

At first, the scientific and archaeological communities didn't believe that Paleolithic man was capable of such sophisticated and inspired artworks

They believed the girl's father, an amateur archeologist, had created them himself

Altamira has beautiful art also...