

EXPLORE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. LEARN INSIDE OUR STATE.

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## Rock Art

### Canyon Pintado Rock Art

**Background:** Several hundred year old art lies in this national historic district. Included are examples of petroglyphs and pictographs. These beautiful images give us a glimpse of the past, so we can see what people were doing and observing. During your drive use the [Canyon Pintado self guided tour](#) online pamphlet and [Canyon Pintado map](#) to identify a family-friendly spot where you can view the pictographs.

Remember to "[leave no trace](#)" and protect this incredible gem. **Please do not touch these as they are very fragile, and your fingers have oils on them that can destroy the images.**

#### Word Alert:

Pictograph—painted image done by an earlier people

Petroglyph—image carved into rocks

Archaeologist—a person who studies human history and prehistory

Fremont Indians—lived in the area from 200 B.C to 1200 A. D.

#### Questions to Ask:

1. What do you think is happening in this picture? Is it a pictograph or petroglyph? (Remember pictographs are painted and petroglyphs are carved)
2. Why do you think they painted or carved these images? *Although we can never know for sure, they may have recorded their discoveries to give hunting tips, or other events that happened here.*

**Activity:** Now it's time to try your hand at a pictograph. What message would you want to leave for people to read in the future? Use images to share your message. After you have completed your pictograph, ask one of your travel companions to try and guess what your message means.



For additional resources and educational activities go to the [Colorado Rock Art Association website](#)