



*Analyze and interpret the cave paintings from Jose Maria Cave*

<b>Introduction</b>	
<p>This lesson plan explores the historical and cultural interactions between the Taíno people and Spanish Conquistadors through the analysis of cave paintings from the Jose Maria Cave</p>	
<p><b>Indiana Standards Connections:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GHW.1.4: Discuss the cultural hearth of the Taíno and their contributions.</li> <li>• GHW.2.2: Analyze the demographic changes due to Spanish colonization.</li> <li>• GHW.3.3: Understand the economic changes, focusing on the tribute system depicted in "Tribute Scene."</li> <li>• GHW.4.1: Explore conflicts and cooperation between the Taíno and Spanish.</li> <li>• GHW.5.3: Evaluate environmental impacts, such as deforestation for Spanish plantations.</li> <li>• GHW.6.2: Use maps to understand the geographical context.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Compelling Question(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do the cave paintings in the Jose Maria Cave help reveal the nature of the interactions between the Taíno people and Spanish Conquistadors?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lesson Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze and interpret historical cave paintings.</li> <li>• Understand the cultural and historical interactions between the Taíno people and Spanish Conquistadors.</li> </ul> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe and interpret the elements in the cave paintings from Jose Maria Cave.</li> <li>• Explain the historical context of the Taíno and Spanish encounters as depicted in the paintings.</li> <li>• Relate the paintings to broader historical themes such as cultural exchange, conflict, and cooperation.</li> <li>• Use geographic tools to contextualize the Taíno-Spanish interactions.</li> <li>• Present their analysis and findings to the class effectively.</li> <li>• Reflect on the significance of the historical interactions and their impact on both Taíno and Spanish societies.</li> </ul>	

## Materials

- Images of the cave paintings: "Spanish Face," "Caravel," "Tribute Scene," "Creation of Man," and "Spanish Cross"
- Projector and screen for displaying images
- Copies of the descriptions for each painting
- Worksheets for image analysis
- Map of the Caribbean, highlighting Hispaniola
- Secondary sources on Taíno culture and the Spanish Conquest

## Learning Plan

### Day 1: Introduction to the Taíno and their encounters with the Spanish?

#### Activities

Introduction (10 minutes):

- Briefly introduce the Taíno people and their initial encounters with Spanish Conquistadors.
- Highlight the importance of Hispaniola in the early days of Spanish colonization.

Image Analysis Activity (40 minutes)

- Divide students into five groups and assign each group one of the cave paintings.
- Provide each group with a high-quality print of their assigned image and the accompanying description.
- Distribute worksheets with questions to guide the analysis:
- What do you see in the painting? Describe the elements.
- What might these elements represent?
- How do these images reflect the interaction between the Taíno and the Spanish?

Group Presentations (30 minutes)

- Each group presents their analysis to the class.
- Discuss the significance of each image in the context of Taíno-Spanish interactions.

Homework Assignment (10 Minutes):

- Ask students to read [this article](#) on the Taíno people and write a reflection on how the Spanish arrival impacted their society.
- How the teacher chooses so that students can submit their reflection is up to their digression.

### Day 2: Deeper Exploration

#### Activities

Review and Discussion (15 minutes):

- Recap key points from the previous class.
- Discuss students' reflections on the homework reading.

Mapping Activity (30 minutes):

- Using a map of the Caribbean, have students locate Hispaniola and discuss its strategic importance.
- Identify the routes taken by Spanish ships like the caravel.

Thematic Connections (20 minutes)

- As a class, have a discussion that allows students to connect the cave paintings to common Geography themes.
- Split the class up into small groups and assign each one of the themes:
  1. Discuss the cultural hearth of the Taíno and their contributions.

2. Analyze the demographic changes due to Spanish colonization.
  3. Understand the economic changes, focusing on the tribute system depicted in "Tribute Scene."
  4. Explore conflicts and cooperation between the Taíno and Spanish.
  5. Evaluate environmental impacts, such as deforestation for Spanish plantations.
  6. Use maps to understand the geographical context.
- Have students create a one-page design that summarizes the Cave Paintings and how they relate to the Taíno and their interactions with the Spanish.

#### Reflection and Discussion (15 minutes)

- As a class, discuss the lasting impacts of the Spanish conquest on Taíno culture and the broader implications for indigenous populations in the Americas.

#### Assessment Suggestions

- Have students write a brief essay on how the cave paintings provide insight into the historical and cultural interactions between the Taíno and Spanish.

You could also assess from the following:

- Participation in group discussions and presentations
- Completion of the image analysis worksheet
- Homework reflection on the impact of Spanish arrival
- Final essay on the significance of the cave paintings

#### Extensions

- **Field Trip to a Museum:** Organize a visit to a local museum with exhibits on indigenous cultures of the Americas or the Age of Exploration to provide students with a broader context and tangible artifacts related to the lesson.
- **Creative Writing Assignment:** Have students write a historical fiction story or a diary entry from the perspective of a Taíno individual or a Spanish Conquistador, incorporating details from the cave paintings and historical context.
- **Art Project:** Encourage students to create their own cave paintings or murals that depict a historical event or cultural interaction, using symbols and elements inspired by Taíno art.
- **Debate Activity:** Organize a classroom debate on the impacts of European colonization on indigenous populations, focusing on both the positive and negative consequences for societies like the Taíno.
- **Guest Speaker:** Invite a historian or anthropologist specializing in Caribbean history or indigenous cultures to speak to the class and provide deeper insights into the Taíno-Spanish interactions.
- **Documentary Viewing:** Show a documentary about the Taíno people, Spanish colonization, or the broader Age of Exploration, followed by a discussion on how the visual media relates to the cave paintings.
- **Map Analysis:** Conduct a detailed map analysis activity where students trace the routes of Spanish explorers, locate significant Taíno sites, and analyze how geography influenced historical events.
- **Cross-Curricular Connections:** Integrate the lesson with literature by reading and analyzing primary source documents or excerpts from books that describe the Taíno and Spanish encounters, such as Christopher Columbus's journals.

## Cave Paintings Analysis Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Painting: \_\_\_\_\_

*Work collaboratively with your group to analyze your assigned painting. Discuss each section and write down your responses in detail. Prepare to share your findings with the class, using your notes to guide your presentation. Reflect individually on the significance of the painting and what you learned from the activity.*

### **Part 1: Visual Analysis**

Describe the elements you see in the painting.

1. Human Figures:

2. Describe any human figures. What do they look like? What are they wearing?

Objects and Symbols:

3. Identify any objects or symbols. What do you think they represent?

Animals or Plants:

4. Describe any animals or plants depicted in the painting.

Other Elements:

5. Note any other significant elements in the painting.

6. What do you think each element represents in the context of Taíno culture or their encounter with the Spanish?

7. Why do you think these elements were included in the painting?

### **Part 2: Historical Context**

Early Encounters:

- How does the painting reflect the initial encounters between the Taíno and the Spanish?
- What evidence in the painting suggests interaction between the two groups?

Cultural Exchange:

- Describe any cultural exchange depicted in the painting (e.g., food sharing, religious symbols).

Conflict and Cooperation:

- Are there any signs of conflict or cooperation in the painting? Explain your reasoning.