Assignment #2: Cave of Forgotten Dreams

Please watch the following video (90 minutes): [Cave of Forgotten Dreams (2010) | Watch Free Documentaries Online (watchdocumentaries.com)](https://watchdocumentaries.com/cave-of-forgotten-dreams/) This feature length documentaryon Chauvet Cave is directed and narrated by the eminent German filmmaker Werner Herzog(of recent “I would like to see the baby” Mandalorian fame). A higher-definition version of this documentary is also available for free on [www.knowledge.ca](http://www.knowledge.ca) but it requires you to create an account. I think you can even rent it on Apple TV if neither of the above free options are palatable.

Keep this assignment sheet open as you watch the video and please answer **ALL QUESTIONS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED**. You may use point-form or full sentences. This .docx file will allow you to type your answers into pre-set text boxes. Please do not alter the format of the document.

1. How many years ago do the cave paintings at Chauvet date? (1 pt) (these are no longer the oldest cave paintings in the world: cave paintings the Indonesian island of Sulawesi date back at least 45,500 years)

32 000 years ago

1. What happened to seal the cave entrance (creating a perfect time capsule) and roughly when did it occur? (2 pts)

Massive rock slide 20 000 ya sealed off the cave entrance

1. Once the team enters the cave, the massive steel door is locked behind them. Why?(1 pt)

Steel door is locked behind them to avoid compromising the climate inside of the cave.

1. What are three (of many) restrictions placed on the film crew? (3 pts)

Only four people allowed inside.

The crew is only allowed inside of the cave for one hour.

Not allowed to touch anything inside of the cave.

1. One of the first panels visible when entering the cave is the Panel of the Red Dots. How might these have been painted? (1 pt)

Painted by the palm of the hand

1. Some people thought the paintings may have been forgeries. How was it demonstrated that they were authentic? (2 pts)

There is a layer of calcite and concretions over the paintings.

These take thousands of years to grow.

1. Why might someone paint a bison with eight legs? (1 pt)

The 8 legs are to give the illusion of movement, similar to frames in an animated film.

1. What nearby natural feature was likely a landmark or, more fantastically, an element in the mythology of the Upper Paleolithic peoples at Chauvet Cave? (provide the name of this feature and describe it)(2 pts)

Landmark named Pont d'Arc

A giant natural arch, looks kind of like a bridge.

Mostly bear bones

1. The bones of what animal represents 99% of the finds from Chauvet Cave? (1 pt)
2. Generally, what was Carole and Gilles trying to figure out about the paintings?(2 pt)

They were trying to determine the underlying contours of the paintings along with dating the succession of natural events, animal activity, and human paintings done over time.

1. What physical feature allowed Dominique and Valérie to identify a single painter of the palm prints? (1 pts)

Slightly crooked little finger in the palm prints

1. Evidence for ‘torch swiping’ was found deep in the cave and fragments of burned wood from this event was dated using the radiocarbon method. What date was discovered? (1 pt)

28000 years ago

1. What random archaeozoological fact was discovered by the painting of a male and female cave lion? (2 pts)

Discovered that male cave lions did not have manes, compared to modern lions today, by the outlines of his clearly delineated head. Clearly a male by the scrotum under the tail

Rock pendant, only see the lower portion of her body, pubic triangle with diverged legs, clear knees

Head of a bison

Similar to early Stone Age statuettes

1. Describe the only partial representation of a human in the entire cave.(2 pts)
2. Which museum contains the large collection of reproduction paleolithic Venuses and where is it located? (2 pts)

Museum of Blaubeuren

Located in the Swabian Alp of Germany

1. Give two reasons why the Venus of Hohle Fels is important. (2 pts)

Earliest representation of a human being

Probably the oldest depiction of any kind of figurative object, root of figurative depiction

1. Did the artists of Chavet ever see the stalagmite and stalactite crystal formations? Why or why not? (2 pts)

The artists never saw them as these crystal formations take thousands of years to grow. Many only started to form after the landslide had sealed the entrance.

1. What is the best evidence for some kind of Paleolithic spirituality or ritual in the Chauvet Cave? What animal is involved and how is it displayed? (2 pt)

The skull of a bear is placed on the center of a rock resembling an altar. Deliberately staged, the skull faces the entrance of the cave. The altar is surrounded by fragments of charcoal potentially used as incense.

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