A134-Eur-Germany-Hohle Fels Cave-Bird-Ivory-33,000 BP

Fig. 1. Germany-Hohle Fels Cave-Bird-Ivory-33,000 BP

Formal Label: Germany-Hohle Fels Cave-Bird-Ivory-33,000 BP

Display Description: This is one of the non-human figurines found in Hohle Fels Cave dating to 33,000 BP. The cave was a repository of many human and animal figurines but this is the unique bird figurine in mammoth ivory. The back is etched with transverse lines representing feathers. This suggests that perhaps the pose of the bird and these etchings may be related. From other cave contexts we know that entoptic images were perceived in hallucinogenic contexts. The pose of the bird is as if diving, and this also suggests that it is in a state of submersion. It has been suggested that since the caves also served as the repositories of figurines they may have been used in a religious context (UNESCO).

Accession Number: A134

LC Classification: CC77.5

Date or Time Horizon: 33,000 BP-31,000 BP

Geographical Area: Germany-Hohle Fels Cave

Map:



Ap of location in Germany

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/0b/Relief\_Map\_of\_Germany.svg/360px-Relief\_Map\_of\_Germany.svg.png

GPS coordinates: [48°22′45″N 9°45′20″E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Hohle_Fels&params=48_22_45_N_9_45_20_E_type:landmark)

Cultural Affiliation: Paleolithic

Medium: mammoth ivory.

Dimensions:

Weight:

Condition: replica in resin.

Provenance: Louvre Museum, Paris.

Discussion: Its diminutive size and lack of suspension loops suggests that its role in the rituals in the cave may have been communal.

In 2008, a team from the University of Tübingen, led by archaeologist Nicholas Conard, discovered an artifact known as the Venus of Hohle Fels, dated to about 35,000 to 40,000 years ago.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hohle_Fels#cite_note-Conard-2) This is the earliest known Venus figurine and the earliest undisputed example of expressly human figurative art.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hohle_Fels#cite_note-Conard-2) The team also unearthed a bone flute in the cave, and found two fragments of ivory flutes in nearby caves. The flutes date back at least 35,000 years and are some of the earliest musical instruments ever found.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hohle_Fels#cite_note-3) In 2012, it was announced that an earlier discovery of bone flute fragments in Geißenklösterle Cave now date back to about 42,000 years, instead of 37,000 years, as earlier perceived.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hohle_Fels#cite_note-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hohle_Fels#cite_note-5)

The remains of at least five distinct individuals were found at Hohle Fels. In 2016, researchers successfully extracted the DNA from three samples taken from the Magdalenian period found at Hohle Fels. The tests were performed on two femur fragments, HohleFels10 and HohleFels49, and a cranial fragment, HohleFels79. The two femur fragments possibly came from one individual. HohleFels10 and HohleFels49 were indirectly dated to around 16,000-14,260 BP [BP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Before_Present" \o "Before Present), while HohleFels79 was directly dated to around 15,070-14,270 BP. All three samples were found to belong to mtDNA Haplogroup U8a. The Hohle Fels samples were found to be genetically closest to other ancient samples from the Magdalenian, showing closest genetic affinity to each other and for other samples taken from the Swabian Jura, such as Brillenhöhle, while also showing genetic affinity for another Magdalenian sample, taken from the Red Lady of El Mirón, as well as a sample from the Aurignacian, GoyetQ116-1, taken from Goyet.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hohle_Fels#cite_note-PosthRenaud2016-6)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hohle_Fels#cite_note-FuPosth2016-7) (Wikipedia)

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