Prehistory and Prehistoric Art

Vocabulary
Abstraction
Cairn
Capstone
Corbeling
Dolmen
Henge
Incising
Low relief
Menhir
Modeling
Neolithic
Paleolithic
Passage grave
Post and lintel construction
Relative dating
Relief sculpture
Sculpture in the round
Ware

Historical Evidence
1. Define the term “Prehistoric.”

2. What are the principal sites where Prehistoric art has been located?

3. Describe the changes that occurred throughout the Prehistoric period from the Paleolithic to the Neolithic eras?

4. How is early art dated without the assistance of written sources?

5. How does the introduction of Bronze during the Neolithic period change the type of objects that appeared during this time?

Interpretation and Meaning
1. What are the theories related to the meaning and purpose of Prehistoric cave paintings?

2. Discuss the changes that occurred in architecture from the Paleolithic to the Neolithic periods. How does architecture possibly show advances that echo other changes from the same time?
3. What are the possible meanings of early figurine images of women during the Paleolithic period?

4. How does pottery and ceramics provide additional clues in interpreting the living and trading patterns of lost cultures?

5. Explain why calling a prehistoric figure a "woman" instead of "Venus" frees us to think about the object in new and different ways.

**Materials and Techniques**

1. Explain the various techniques that were possibly employed to create Prehistoric wall paintings.

2. What techniques did Neolithic potters use to create vessels?

3. Explain the construction techniques used to build megalithic structures. What were the key features of these monuments?

**Compare and Discuss**

1. Compare/contrast the Woman of Willendorf with the Woman from Ostrava Petrkovice. Why do you think they are different?

2. Compare any prehistoric work to something that is created in present day. Try to find some kind of connection they may have, visually, symbolically, etc.