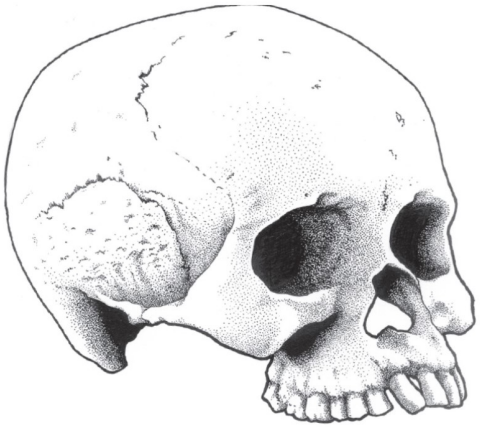
ARTS AWARD

ARTEFACT ILLUSTRATION

Archaeological illustrators prepare detailed drawings of finds like pottery, jewellery, bones and buildings, to help people understand archaeological information. They use pencil, pen-and-ink and graphics software to create images used in publications, websites and Museums.

Image: Howard Hardiman / knapped

Have a go at creating your own illustration, taking time to examine your artefact. Think about the angle and perspective of your drawing. Top tips: the lines on grid paper make great guides for accurate 1:1 or up-scaled drawings and an illuminated magnifier will help to discern detail and prevent eye strain. Your illustration can be of a modern artefact such as an old coin, shard of pottery from the beach or a cast of a precious item.



Start with a loose, light, pencil sketch and work over the top with fine line pen. The aim is to create an accurate illustration rather than an artistic one!

REMEMBER
show everything you have done: take photos, write notes, keep flyers and anything else to share your activity and what you feel about it.

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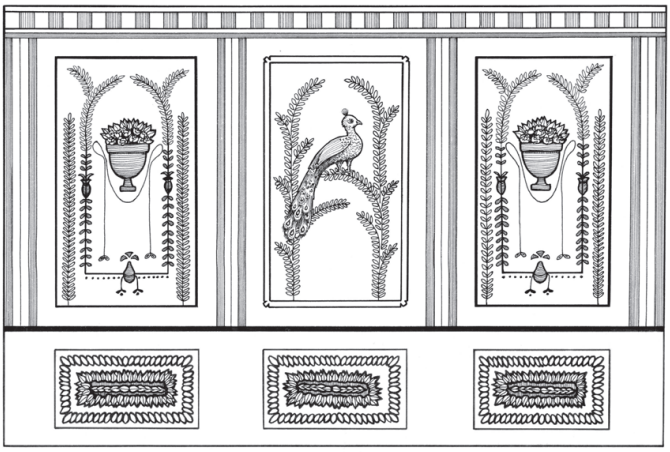
FRESCO MURALS

Fresco is a technique of painting made directly onto wet lime plaster, usually on a wall. Dry-powder pigments are mixed with water and painted onto wet plaster, which are very durable when set. Designs range from realistic to impressionistic, can cover walls and ceilings inside buildings and feature portraits, mythological scenes, flora, fauna and landscapes.



To make your own fresco, mix and pour plaster of Paris onto a square of burlap (or into an ice cream tub). Once it begins to set, you can transfer your design (known as a 'Cartoon') by placing the drawing onto the plaster and tracing the marks with a tooth pick, indenting the plaster. You now have a guide to apply watercolour paints onto. For an aged look, break the fresco when dry, then reassemble and glue!

Image: N Sean Glover

Further learning: research the Mexican mural movement, especial legendary muralist Diego Rivera, part of a group of artists that renewed interest in the art of Fresco during the 20th Century.

For an up to date contemporary spin on the art of frescos take a look at the work of American artist N Sean Glover (www.nseanglover.com). Sean uses materials and processes both new and old to investigate the histories of objects and technology, holding the position of Fresco instructor at Skowhegan School of painting and sculpture since 2008.

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