#### BBC HOMEPAGE | WORLD SERVICE | EDUCATION

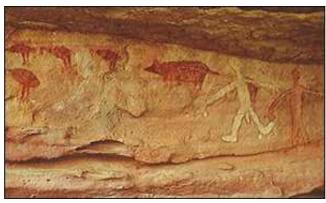
low graphics version | feedback | help

## B B C NEWS

Front Page
World
UK
UK Politics
Business
Sci/Tech
Health
Education
Entertainment
Talking Point
In Depth
AudioVideo

You are in: **Sci/Tech**Front Page Tuesday, 2 May, 2000, 17:12 GMT 18:12 UK

# **Earliest evidence of art found**



The oldest known cave paintings are just 35,000 years old

Dr Lawrence Barham

"It's the earliest evidence of an aesthetic sense"

BBC Science's Richard Hollingham

"The research implies that art played an important role in the development of modern humans"

neal 28k

Archaeologists in Zambia have uncovered evidence that early humans used paint for aesthetic purposes far earlier than previously thought.

The team found pigments and paint grinding equipment believed to be between 350,000 and 400,000 years old. The oldest pigments previously found were 120,000 years old and the oldest known paintings are just 35,000 years old.

Over 300 fragments of pigment have now been found in a cave at Twin Rivers, near Lusaka, Zambia. These materials were apparently gathered in from the surrounding area.

This part of Africa is often associated with the emergence of modern humans.

### Yellow and purple

It is likely that the stone age inhabitants used the colours, which range from yellow to purple, to paint their bodies during hunting rituals, ceremonies and other social events.

The remnants date from before the appearance of anatomically modern humans, *Homo Sapiens*.

One of the team that made the discovery, Dr Lawrence Barham from the University of Bristol, UK, said:

#### **Search BBC News Online**

GO

Advanced search options

Launch console for latest audio/video

**\*\*\*** BBC RADIO NEWS

**BBC ONE TV NEWS** 

**●●●** WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

■ BBC NEWS 24 BULLETIN

PROGRAMMES GUIDE

#### See also:

25 Apr 00 | Sci/Tech World's oldest hat revealed 22 Feb 00 | Sci/Tech Ape-man: Origin of sophistication 03 Mar 00 | Sci/Tech Asia's oldest axe tools discovered 01 Mar 00 | Sci/Tech World's oldest building discovered 20 Feb 00 | Washington 2000 Oldest flute sounds again 28 Oct 99 | Sci/Tech First farmers discovered 04 May 99 | Sci/Tech 'Earliest writing' found 11 Jan 99 | Sci/Tech Cave painting could be star calendar

#### **Internet links:**

Bristol University Archaeology

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

# Top Sci/Tech stories now:

Astronomy's next big thing Ancient rock points to life's origin Mobile spam on the rise Giant telescope project gets boost New hope for Aids vaccine Replace your mouse with your eye "We're dealing here with people who were perhaps using symbols far earlier than we expected.

"It also implies the use of language, so it's an important discovery, full of implications for the development of new behaviours."



Body art continues today

Device could detect overdose drugs Wireless internet arrives in China

Links to more Sci/Tech stories are at the foot of the page.

Stone Age man's first forays into art were taking place at the same time as the development of more efficient hunting equipment, including tools that combined both wooden handles and stone implements.

This latest discovery adds to the evidence that the development of new technology, art and rituals played a vital role in the evolution of modern humanity.

E-mail this story to a friend

## Links to more Sci/Tech stories

In This Section

GO



News Front Page | World | UK | UK Politics | Business | Sci/Tech | Health | Education | Entertainment | Talking Point | In Depth | AudioVideo

To BBC Sport>> | To BBC Weather>>

© MMIII | News Sources | Privacy