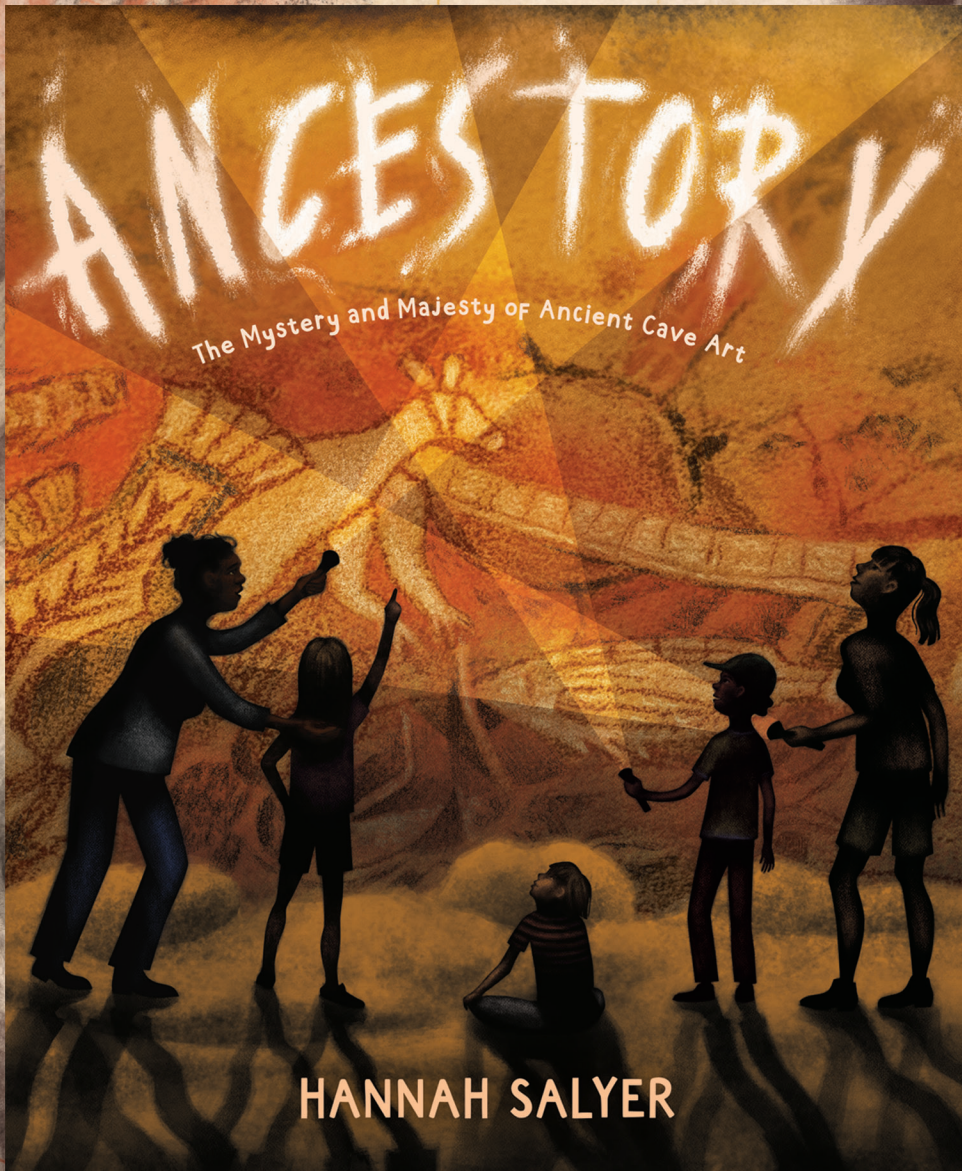


An Educator's Guide to



CLARION BOOKS

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR



Hannah resides in Brooklyn, NY, with her partner and her three cats. She writes and illustrates picture books, makes ceramics, multimedia sculpture, and fine art. She teaches both art classes for young kids and illustration classes for undergrad students at Parsons School of Design. Hannah is also one third of the crew at the helm of Underland Gallery, a community arts space in South Brooklyn. Her work is rooted in a deep fascination with natural history, ecological systems and how we relate to the species with whom we share our planet.

Hannah's work has been recognized by American Illustration and The Society of Illustrators. Her work was featured in a show for burgeoning children's book artists at the Interchurch Center of NYC in 2019. She was just chosen as one of the winners of the 2023 Maurice Sendak fellowship.

Her debut picture book *PACKS: Strength in Numbers* was lauded as "Part natural science, part deep ecology, wholly captivating." by Kirkus (STARRED review). Her most recent self-authored title *ANCESTORY: The Mystery and Majesty of Ancient Cave Art* received multiple starred reviews from Kirkus and Booklist, and was named as a "Gold Standard Selection" by Junior Library Guild.





THEMES AND ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF STORYTELLING

Key Questions: Why has storytelling and art been so important to humans for so long? How has storytelling changed for humans over time? What common themes emerge in our shared stories? In what ways have stories and storytelling your life?

HONORING OUR ANCESTORS

Key Questions: Why is it important to honor our ancestors? What are some ways that you honor your familial ancestors? What are some ways that we all can honor our *ancient* ancestors?

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING ROCK ART

Key Questions: Why might it be especially important to preserve, protect, and study ancient rock art? How does this art differ from other ancient tools and artifacts? What clues can archaeologists use to learn about the art, who made it, and why? What are some ways that we can continue to protect rock art sites?

ADDING CHAPTERS TO THE STORY

Key Questions: Sites all over the globe have been damaged by graffiti - on the surface this tarnishes the art, but what are the other reasons it might be harmful? How do we make sure to be respectful of our ancestors' stories while telling our own? What are some of the different ways that we can add chapters to our collective "Ancestry"?



EXPLORING LESSON IDEAS

THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

When writing about history, our planet, and the universe, we have to be sure to consult credible sources to back up our thoughts, analyses, and theories. Hannah spent over three years researching rock art while writing ANCESTRY. She read articles and books, watched movies, spoke to archaeologists working in the field, and traveled to actual rock art sites to collect information that she would use in the book. Take time to run through the different steps of thorough research with students and find a way to apply them:

- **STARTING OUT:** honing in on a topic
- **SOURCES:** how to choose whether to consult print vs digital, library or database vs internet
- **CREDIBILITY:** knowing how to sort through information and navigate the internet to find sources that are trustworthy
- **CITATION:** Proper ways to cite sources, and the importance of crediting them

USING ARCHAEOLOGY TO SOLVE ANCIENT MYSTERIES

Build a lesson centered around the role archaeology can play in understanding history. Be sure to touch on how the underlying philosophy of field work has evolved and progressed ethically, and continues to-- what are some examples of this? What aspects make this field so important? You can also take time to hone in on specific materials used in rock art and do an investigation: why did our ancestors choose the mediums that they did?





EXPLORING LESSON IDEAS cont.

LEARNING ABOUT INDIVIDUAL ROCK ART SITES

Students can take time to find, select, and research a specific rock art site in any part of the globe. As a longer assignment, they can give presentations about the sites as if they were presenting an archaeological study; presenting things like informational findings, research and fabricated replicas.

ANCIENT HUMAN HISTORY

Hold a lesson focused on the genealogical evolutionary tree that we are part of. Students can research different hominid species that have gone extinct, focusing on both known physical attributes and probable behavioral characteristics. How are we different from them, and how are we similar? Most of us have been taught that our ancient human ancestors, both Neanderthal and our own species, Homo Sapiens, were not very smart. New evidence continues to emerge that refutes those ideas. It's important to set aside time to acknowledge that our information is always changing; as new studies are conducted, new findings are analyzed, and cultural understandings shift. This is a core tenet of historical and scientific study -- sometimes we discover that initial conceptions were wrong, and that helps propel us forward.

WHO WALKED THIS LAND BEFORE US? A NATIVE HISTORY LESSON

Take time to learn about the different groups of native people that used to live in your respective regional/local area in pre-colonial times. This lesson can highlight that while they are often lumped together, there are thousands of unique cultures, languages and locales that differentiate these people. Take time to look into the art they created (both craft and rock art if applicable), stories they told, food that they ate, how they lived, when and why they were forced to relocate. Learning about first nations people also means confronting the brutal ways they were treated and continue to be treated. And despite that fact, they are still here! Study and research what various native folks are up to today. Learn about reservations -- where is the closest one in relation to you? There are many modern native creators contributing important stories to our current culture; research some of the modern books, movies, tv shows, art, and clothing that native people have a hand in. Why is it important to learn their stories? How can we support and uplift native communities today?

ART PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Dyes, Pigments, and Minerals

Students can experiment using both natural and found pigments. This could be using mineral mediums like charcoal and ochre or household mediums coffee and beet juice.

Replicating Rock Art Sites

For the artwork in the book, Hannah built ceramic sculptures and drew on them using charcoal, minerals and colored pencils. Have students choose their own rock art sites to emulate in a medium of their choosing like clay or paper mache.

Artifact fabrication

Have students fabricate an artifact and give a presentation about what information they were able to learn from studying this object, and what elements of the artifact led them to their theories.

Class cave

Shepherd students in building an actual cave! This can be done using big sheets of cardboard and/or craft paper. Once structure is built, students can contribute their own art to the walls and ceiling using paint, pastel and charcoal.

Contributing Modern Imagery to Our Ancestry

Have students think about, plan, and then create images with the knowledge that their ancient descendents will one day see them. What do we want our descendents to know about us, this particular time on the planet, or the way that we live? They can't use letters or words in their art, but can accompany their piece with writing about why they chose to include the imagery that they did.

