

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Secret of the Painted Cave

Marco followed his cousin Sofia up the rocky path that led to the old cliffs. They were visiting their grandparents in Spain for the summer, and Sofia couldn't stop talking about the *painted cave*.

"It's hidden near the olive trees," she whispered. "Some say it's filled with ancient drawings."

Marco was skeptical. "Are you sure it's real?"

Sofia smiled. "You'll see."

After hiking for nearly an hour, they found a small entrance, half-covered in vines. Inside, the air felt cool and damp. Light from Marco's flashlight flickered over the walls, revealing **red and black images of animals, hunters, and handprints**.

"This is incredible," Marco whispered.

Later that evening, they told their grandfather, who explained the cave was **thousands of years old**. "The people who lived here long ago used pictures to share stories. Before writing, this was how they remembered things."

That night, Marco sketched his own cave drawing in his notebook. It was a picture of him and Sofia, standing proudly beneath the painted walls.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Secret of the Painted Cave

1. Why does Sofia want to find the painted cave?

- A. She wants to camp inside it.
- B. She thinks it has old drawings inside.
- C. She needs a place to hide.
- D. She wants to explore with her dog.

2. What does Marco do at the end of the story?

- A. He writes a poem about the cave.
- B. He tells his parents to visit the cave.
- C. He makes his own drawing in his notebook.
- D. He erases the cave drawings.

3. Fill in the blank:

The cave walls were covered with pictures of animals, hunters, and \_\_\_\_\_.

4. What does the story teach about how people shared stories in the past? Use evidence from the text to explain.

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5. How does Marco's attitude change from the beginning to the end of the story?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** N

**Lexile Level:** 530L-680L

**Grade Level:** 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Historical Fiction / Adventure

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today we'll read a story about two kids who make an exciting discovery while visiting their family. As we read, we'll ask questions and look for answers in the text to help us understand how the characters think, feel, and change."*

**Vocabulary:** skeptical, flickered, ancient, cave, hunters

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever discovered something unexpected? What was it?
  2. What do you know about how people told stories before books?
  3. What do you think a "painted cave" might be?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does Marco think about the cave at first?
  2. What do the kids see inside the cave?
  3. What does their grandfather explain about the drawings?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do Marco's actions at the end show that the cave was meaningful to him?
  2. Why is it important to look for answers in the story when we have questions?
  3. How did the characters learn from what they found?
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## Activity Idea

Provide each student with a large sheet of brown paper and markers. Have them create their own "cave drawing" inspired by something important to them—using only pictures, not words. Then, partner students to ask and answer questions about each other's drawings, just like archaeologists and readers do.

