

Wapos Bay RAIDERS OF THE LOST ART episode 19

Episode Description

Mr. Darian takes some of the students on a bird watching field trip and Devon finds some petroglyphs. Mr. Darian has the archaeological site protected to preserve its rock paintings. Meanwhile, Raven's friends and family have different views about how to celebrate her upcoming birthday. The students are warned by Officer Musqua that the rash of graffiti activities on buildings in Wapos Bay will result in prosecution. Devon, T-Bear and Talon form an investigative team and use the technology and equipment developed by the local Norsemen to try to catch the perpetrators who plan to put graffiti next to the petroglyphs – the Norsemen have made a few appearances in previous episodes and are a group of technicians working in Wapos Bay. The team catches the perpetrators in action and T-Bear is inspired to plead a case for viewing graffiti as art, similar to the petroglyphs and to view the perpetrators as artists. The graffiti artists make restitution by creating a mural for the school.

Background information

Preserving ancient art on rocks, such as petroglyphs, is an ethical responsibility. Such art can be an important source of information about the past. Future generations should also derive benefit from these creative expressions. Activities such as vandalism and land development, including building dams, are some of the major threats to what many consider sacred sites. Many petroglyph admirers also harm them by making rubbings, particularly when chalk is used.

There are many sites in North America where petroglyphs created by the original inhabitants, can be observed. Some continue to have spiritual significance where important ceremonies are held and observed. The sites can be cave walls, rock faces, above stone formations, near natural waterways or annual gathering places with hunting, agricultural and/or spiritual significance. The images can often be connected to cultural features of people on whose traditional territories these artworks are located, but some territories were shared by many diverse groups over the vast amount of time during which the art was created. Animals, people, terrestrial bodies, supernatural beings, ceremonial imagery, plants are some of the images that can be identified at petroglyph and pictograph sites.

Archeologists try to interpret the meaning of petroglyphs but most will remain a mystery. Petroglyphs were created by scratching or chipping away at the surface of the stone. They can be distinguished from pictographs, which were created by applying paint or pigment to a rock surface. There are public sites with petroglyphs in most of the Canadian provinces.

There is a belief that petroglyphs are messages. The scientists who study and attempt to interpret pictographs and petroglyphs as languages are called ethnologists.

Television, newspapers, magazines, the Internet and other types of media influence human behaviour and daily life in all parts of Canada, including northern communities such as Wapos Bay. Some consider graffiti to be a form of communication about social experiences. Some have made a link between rock art created in ancient times and the graffiti created today.

PREVIEWING ACTIVITIES

- 1 ► What is a petroglyph? What is a pictograph? Have you ever seen a petroglyph or a pictograph? What do these images represent?
- 2 ► What responsibilities do we have to preserve historical sites such as those where petroglyphs and pictographs are located? What does it mean when a site is protected?
- 3 ► What do petroglyphs tell us about the people who created them? Why do you think that petroglyph and pictograph sites need to be protected?
- 4 ► What is the meaning of these images? What do you imagine they mean?
- 5 ► How are petroglyphs a type of communication? Are there examples of modern petroglyphs?
- 6 ► How does television affect what you say and do? How are the members of the Wapos Bay community influenced by the media in what they say and do? Why do you think such forms of communication developed? Where are you most likely to find graffiti?



VIEW EPISODE

Introduce and View Wapos Bay: “*Raiders of the Lost Art*”

POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Discuss:

- 1 ► What is a petroglyph? What is a pictograph? Have you ever seen a petroglyph or a pictograph? What do these images represent?
- 2 ► What responsibilities do we have to preserve historical sites such as those where petroglyphs and pictographs are located? What does it mean when a site is protected?
- 3 ► What do petroglyphs tell us about the people who created them? Why do you think that petroglyph and pictograph sites need to be protected?
- 4 ► What meaning can be derived from petroglyph images? What do you imagine they mean?



PROJECT IDEAS

- Take a field trip to one of the public petroglyph sites in Canada:
 - Cape Mudge, Quadra Island, British Columbia.
 - Harewood Plain, Nanaimo, British Columbia.
 - Monsell Petroglyph Site, British Columbia.
 - Petroglyph Provincial Park, south of Nanaimo, British Columbia.
 - Nanaimo Centennial Museum and Archives, 100 Cameron Road, Nanaimo, British Columbia.
 - Port Neville, Robber's Knob inlet in Johnstone Strait, British Columbia.
 - Prince Rupert Harbour, Prince Rupert, British Columbia.
 - Sproat Lake, near Port Alberni, British Columbia.
 - Ringbolt Island, Kitselas Canyon, Skeena River, British Columbia (contact the Kitselas Band on Ringbolt Island for permission to visit).
 - Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, East of Milk River, Alberta.
 - Herschel Petroglyphs, 2.5 kilometres west of Herschel, Saskatchewan.
 - Pictographs along the Churchill River System near Pelican Narrows, Larocque Lake and Medicine Rapids, Saskatchewan.
 - Mistusinne Stone, a relocated sacred stone near Elbow, Saskatchewan.
 - Bannock Point Petroform Site, also known as Ojibwa Boulder Mosaic, Whiteshell Provincial Park.
 - Various locations near Lake Kidgemakooge, Nova Scotia.
 - Agawa Rock Pictographs, Lake Superior Park, Ontario.
 - Petroglyphs Provincial Park, northeast of Peterborough, Ontario.
 - Serpent Mound Provincial Park, Rice Lake near Peterborough, Ontario.Create drawings of the petroglyphs or pictographs without damaging the image.
- There are numerous petroglyph and pictograph images available on the Internet. Download several images and create a PowerPoint presentation. Research the meanings of the images. Present the slideshows to the rest of the class.
- Songs of Ancient Journeys by Elsa Marston contains photographs of Southwestern rock art that inspired poems for each image. Choose images from the Internet to copy, research the meaning and write a poem that captures the meaning. Create an art museum display of the artwork and poetry.
- Find flat rocks to create contemporary petroglyphs and pictographs that communicate a message that has spiritual and cultural significance.