

Lesson 2: The history of street art



Part I

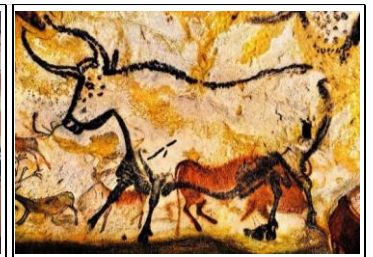
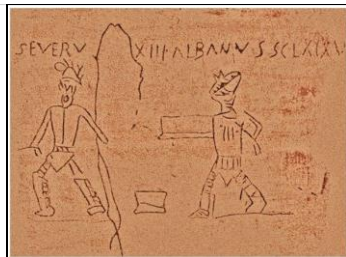
1. Read the 4 extracts. Match the extracts with the images.
2. Put the four images in chronological order. Write the numbers from 1 to 4 under each image.
3. Find the following key words in the text for each image: **time**, **place**, **type of art**.

a. In the mid-seventies, it was sometimes hard to see out of subway trains' window, because they were completely covered in spray paintings and graffiti.

b. In the Age of Antiquity, in the Ancient Rome and Greece, people wrote their names and protest poems on buildings.

c. The first drawings on walls (cave paintings) appeared in caves thousands of years ago.

d. The new art form took off in the early 1970s, when people began writing their names, or "tags", on buildings all over the city.



Extract:	Keywords:	Extract:	Keywords:	Extract:	Keywords:	Extract:	Keywords:
Order:		Order:		Order:		Order:	

Part II

The 'taggers' were part of street gangs who were concerned with marking their territory. They worked in groups called 'crews', and called what they did 'writing' – the term 'graffiti' was first used by The New York Times and the novelist Norman Mailer.

Art galleries in New York began buying graffiti in the late seventies. But at the same time that it began to be regarded as an art form, John Lindsay, the then mayor of New York, declared the first war on graffiti. By the 1980s it became much harder to write on subway trains without being caught or getting arrested, and instead many of the more established graffiti artists began using roofs of buildings or canvases.

The debate over whether graffiti is art or vandalism is still going on. Peter Vallone, a New York city councillor, thinks that graffiti done with permission can be art, but if it is on someone else's property, it becomes a crime.

4. Read the whole text and tick the correct statements.
Justify your answers by underlining the relevant part in the text.

- | | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| | T | F |
| a. Early taggers were part of gangs; that's why they tagged to show where their territory was. | [] | [] |
| b. The word "graffiti" was created by a writer and used in an American newspaper. | [] | [] |
| c. It was really easy to do a graffiti in the subways in the 80s. | [] | [] |
| d. In the late 70s, the mayor of New York was a big fan of graffiti. | [] | [] |

Homework:

5. Prepare a timeline of street art's history.

a. **Highlight** all the time markers in both parts of the text.

b. **Prepare a timeline** of the history of graffiti in your copybook! Use the information you find in both parts of the text.