

Unit 6: Forms of Expression

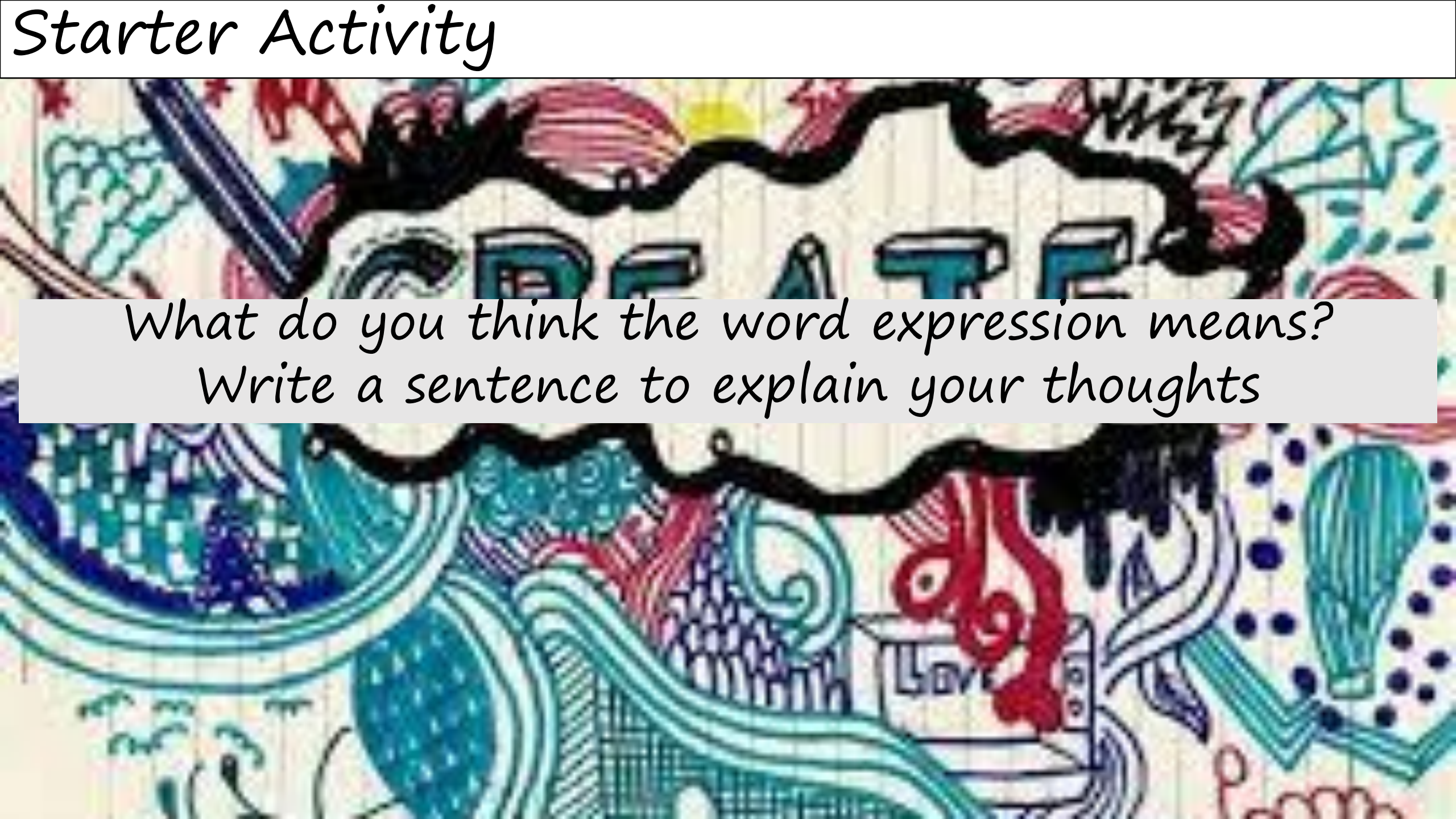


Lesson 1: How do we express who we are?

Unit introduction

In this unit we will be exploring the different ways in which humans express their beliefs. We will look at paintings, sculpture, dance, drama and sacred objects. Art forms are used within religion to express people's faith and are even used in worship. To begin with we will explore how we express ourselves and how humans are made in a unique way. Being unique allows humans to create art forms to express their beliefs!

Starter Activity



What do you think the word expression means?
Write a sentence to explain your thoughts

Main Activity 1: How is art used to inform?

As long as humans have been on Earth, they've used available materials to make art. From cave paintings and carved bone statues, to oil paintings, people use art to convey many things -- to mark major events, comment on the passage of time, for celebration and mourning, or to adorn personal spaces for satisfaction and a sense of belonging. In a cave in prehistoric Spain, someone painted animal images almost 14,000 years ago. We don't know exactly why this person drew a series of buffalo, but he/she was expressing something about his life and experience



Bison paintings, La Covaciella cave, Spain

Main Activity 1: How is art used to inform?

Art Is Communication Without Words

People tend to communicate with words, both written and verbal. But sometimes, conveying ideas is done in other ways. You've heard the old saying "a picture's worth a thousand words", right? That's because art can get ideas across using a different kind of vocabulary. Some people respond more to visual images than words. Scholars and scientists have done many studies on how we learn, and they know that different parts of the brain process what the eye sees in many ways. It makes sense that people pursue different means of communication, especially when words aren't effective. Art translates ideas into symbols

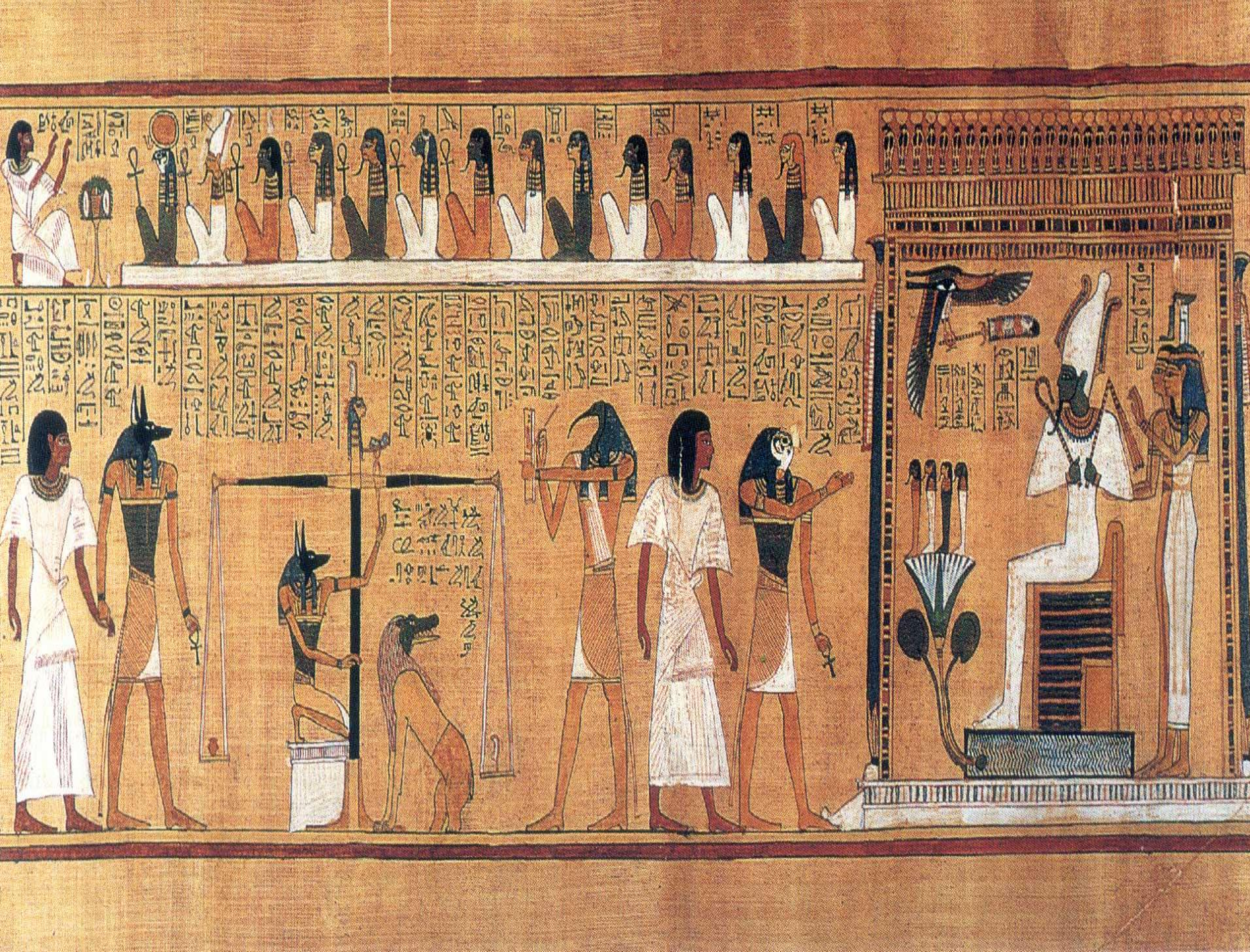


[Cueva de las Manos](#) located [Perito Moreno](#), [Argentina](#). The art in the cave dates between 13,000–9,000

Main Activity 1: How is art used to inform?

Humans have used art to express their beliefs about religion, cults and the supernatural. As soon as humans gained the gift of using tools to create images, humans wanted to share their beliefs in this way and worship through art and sculpture.

You will now be introduced to a set of images depicting art and sculpture from prehistoric times. For each image, please take a moment to answer the thought points provided.



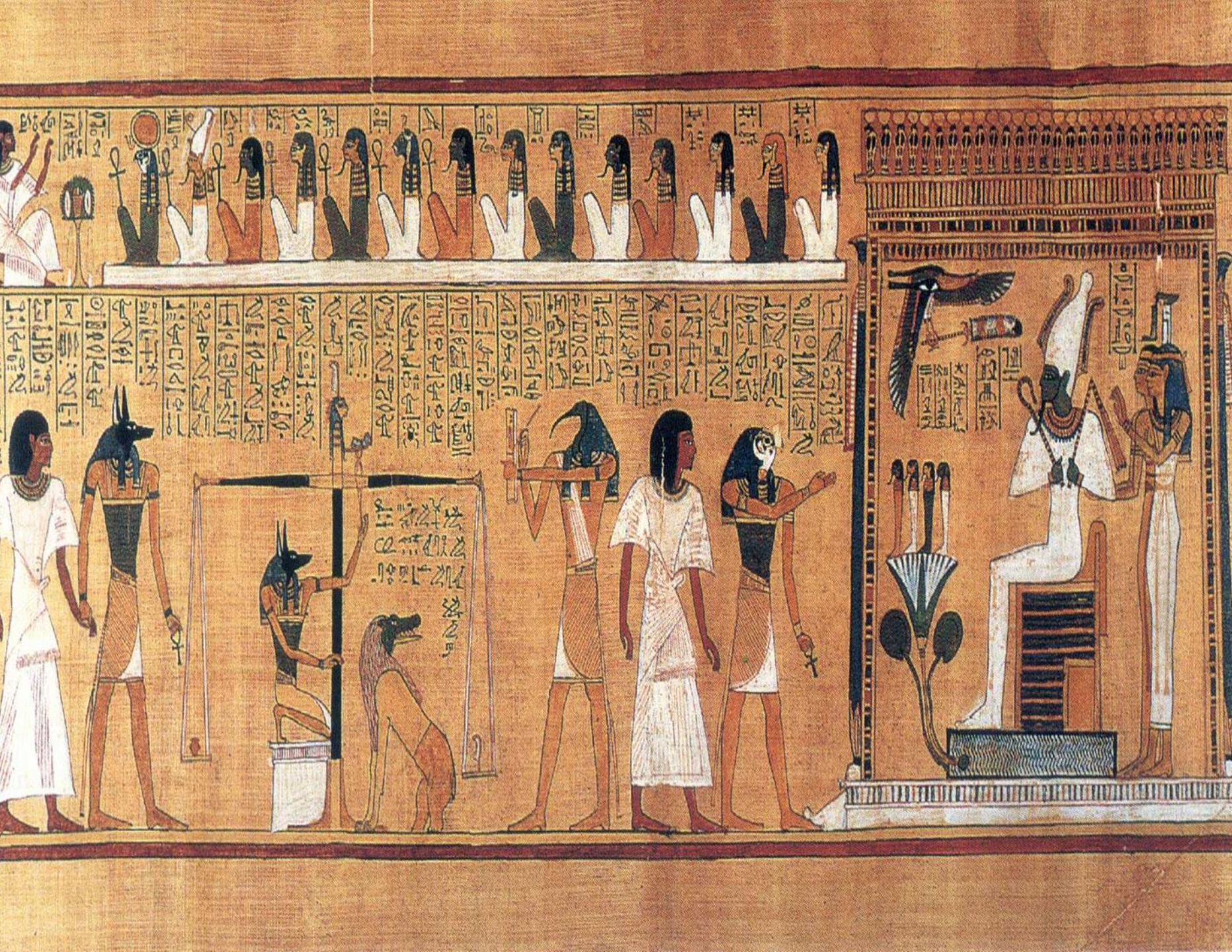
- Look carefully at this image.
- What do you think is happening in this image?
- What do you notice about the Gods?
- What do you think is being weighed and why?



Where do you think these paintings come from?

What do you think they are showing?

How old do you think they are?



- This detail scene, from the Papyrus of Hunefer (c. 1275 BCE), shows the scribe Hunefer's heart being weighed on the scale of Maat against the feather of truth, by the jackal-headed Anubis.
- The ibis-headed Thoth, scribe of the gods, records the result. If his heart equals exactly the weight of the feather, Hunefer is allowed to pass into the afterlife.
- If not, he is eaten by the devouring creature Ammit composed of the deadly crocodile, lion, and hippopotamus.



Located about 15 miles from the Cave of Altamira in northern Spain, Cueva de El Castillo (Cave of the Castle) is the site for the world's oldest known collection of prehistoric art. Using radiocarbon dating, El Castillo is estimated to be more than 40,800 years old and holds more than 150 paintings, including stenciled hands like Argentina's Cueva de las Manos, as well as depictions of animals, including horses, deer, mammoths and dogs

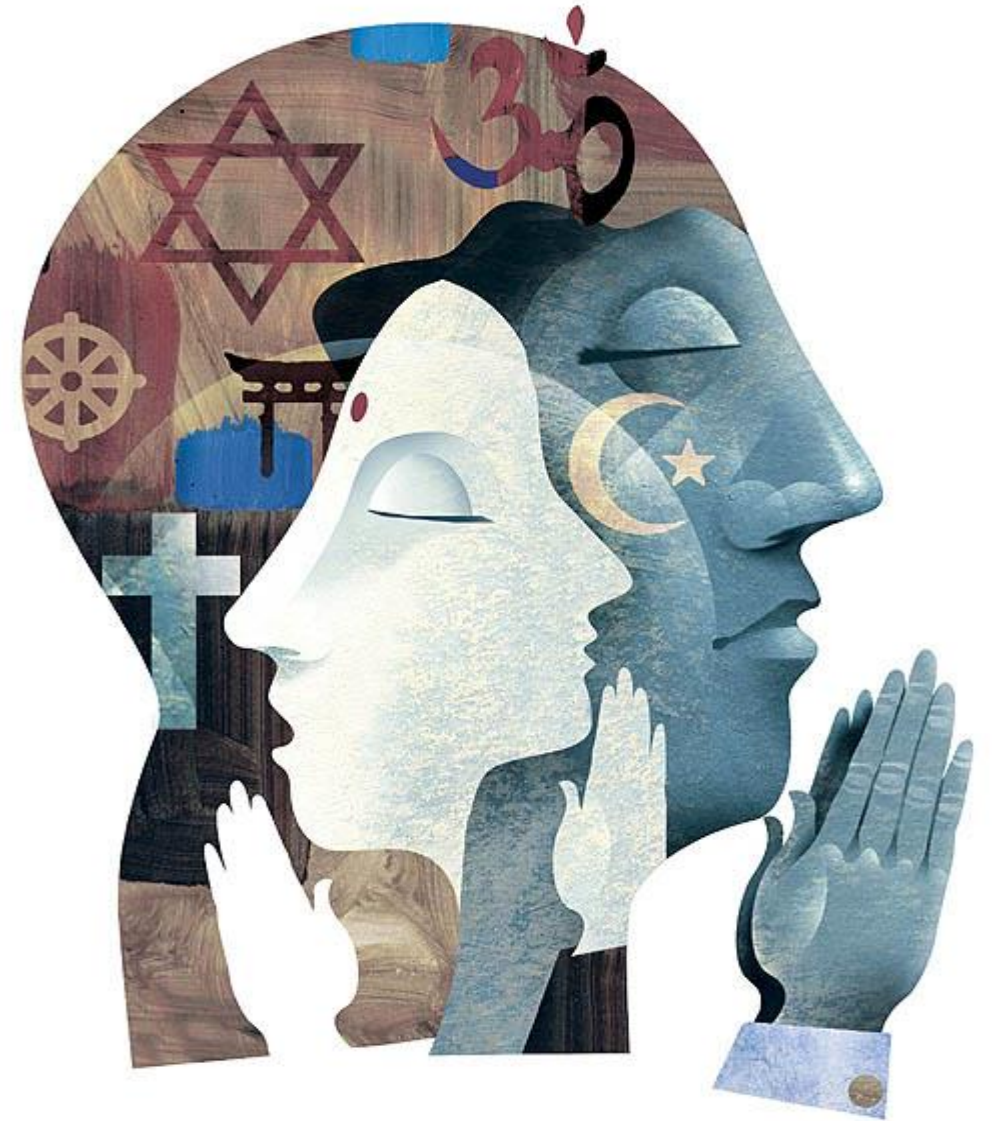
REVIEW ACTIVITY

1. What have you found interesting so far in this lesson?
2. What questions do you have?
3. Is there anything that has surprised you?

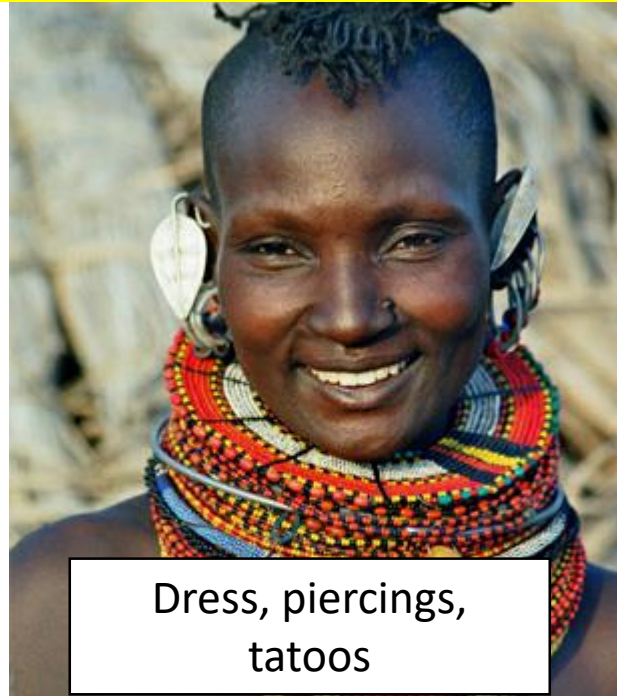
Main Activity 2: What are the different ways people express themselves?

Create a short presentation explaining all the different ways you think people can express themselves. In your presentation you must meet the following criteria:

1. Examples of how people express themselves.
2. An explanation of why it is important for humans to express themselves.
3. An example of how and why people express their religious belief.



Main Activity 2: What are the different ways people express themselves?



Dress, piercings,
tatoos



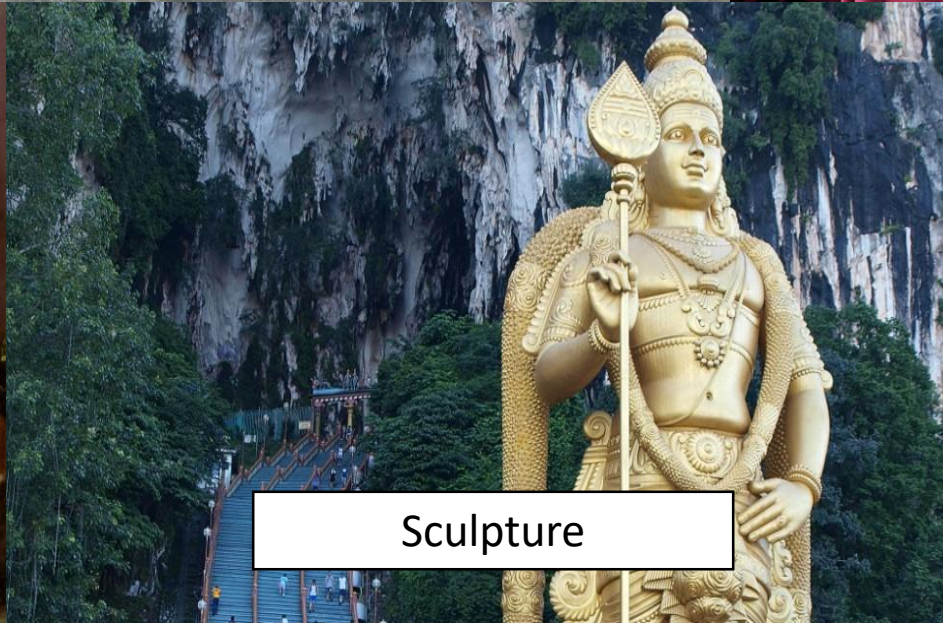
Dance



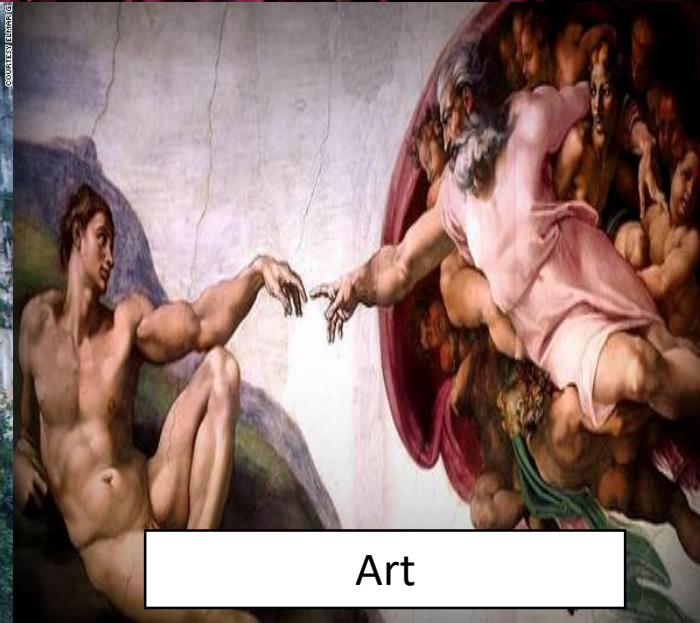
Music



Drama



Sculpture



Art

Plenary

On a post-it note explain at least one reason it is important to express yourself.

List at least three ways people can express their religious belief.