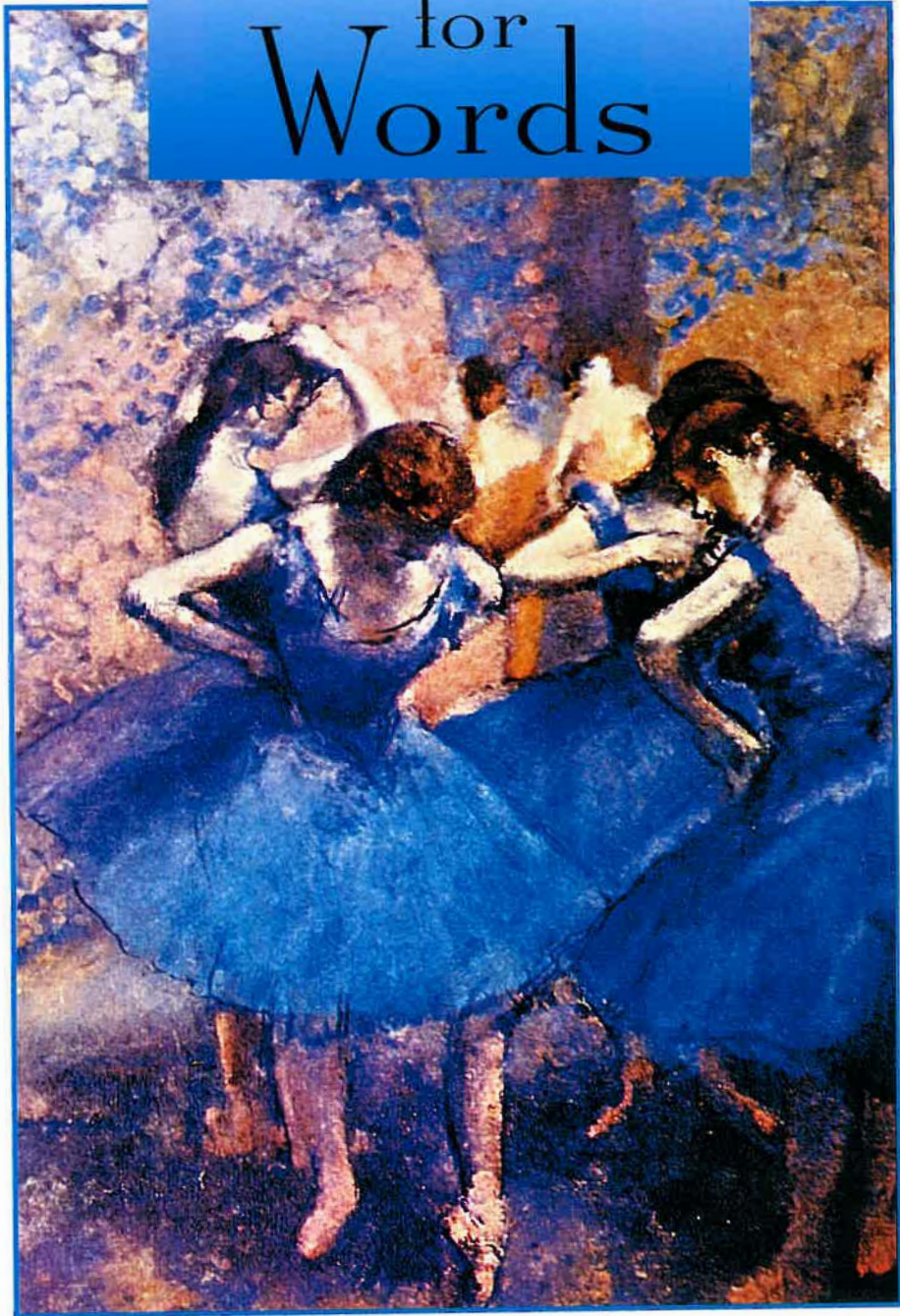


No Need for Words



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Features

TIME LINK



Do you know how artists painted people long ago in Egypt? Find out on page 9.

Many people think this man was one of the greatest artists of the twentieth century. He created thousands of artworks during his lifetime. Turn to page 12 for **Pablo Picasso**.

PROFILE



IN FOCUS



What do you have if you take a great story, get rid of the words and add some music and dancers? Read all about it in **Dancing a Story** on page 16.

Where did the word *pantomime* come from? What is it and where did it start? Find out on page 18.

WORD BUILDER



Speaking Through Art

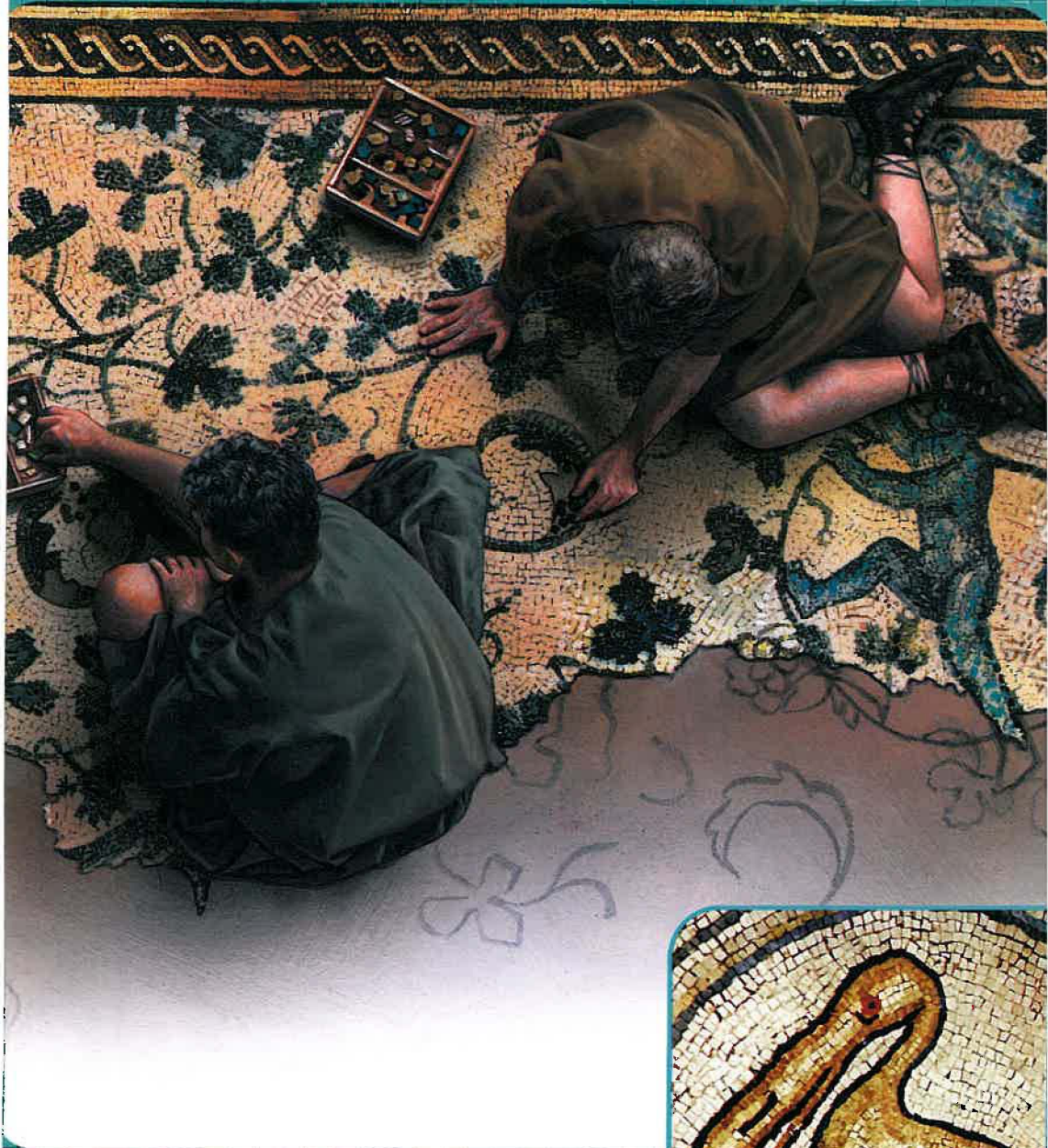
For as long as there have been people, there has been art. Art helps people make sense of what they know. It also helps them explore their imaginations.

People all around the world make art. Painting, **sculpture**, needlecraft, dance, mime and music are some of the many different art forms.

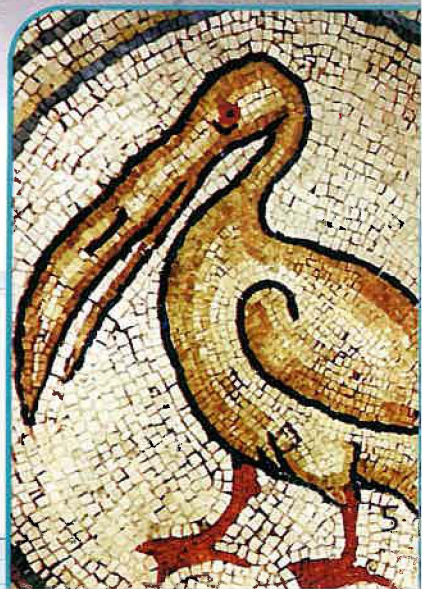
By looking at art, we can learn many things. In this way, art is a story with no words.

Easter Island in the South Pacific is famous for its huge stone statues called moai. The moai were carved hundreds of years ago. They may have been made to honour the dead relatives of the early islanders.





Mosaic art is made by using many little tiles, pieces of coloured stone or bits of glass to make a picture or pattern. Mosaic art has decorated floors, ceilings and walls for thousands of years.

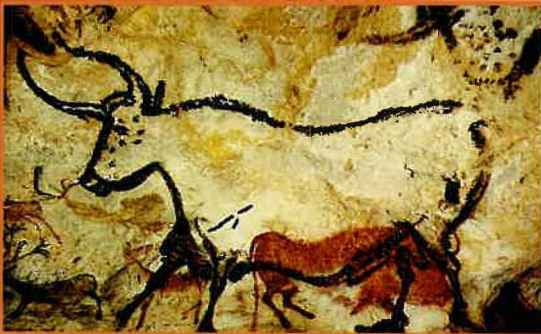


Stories on Rock

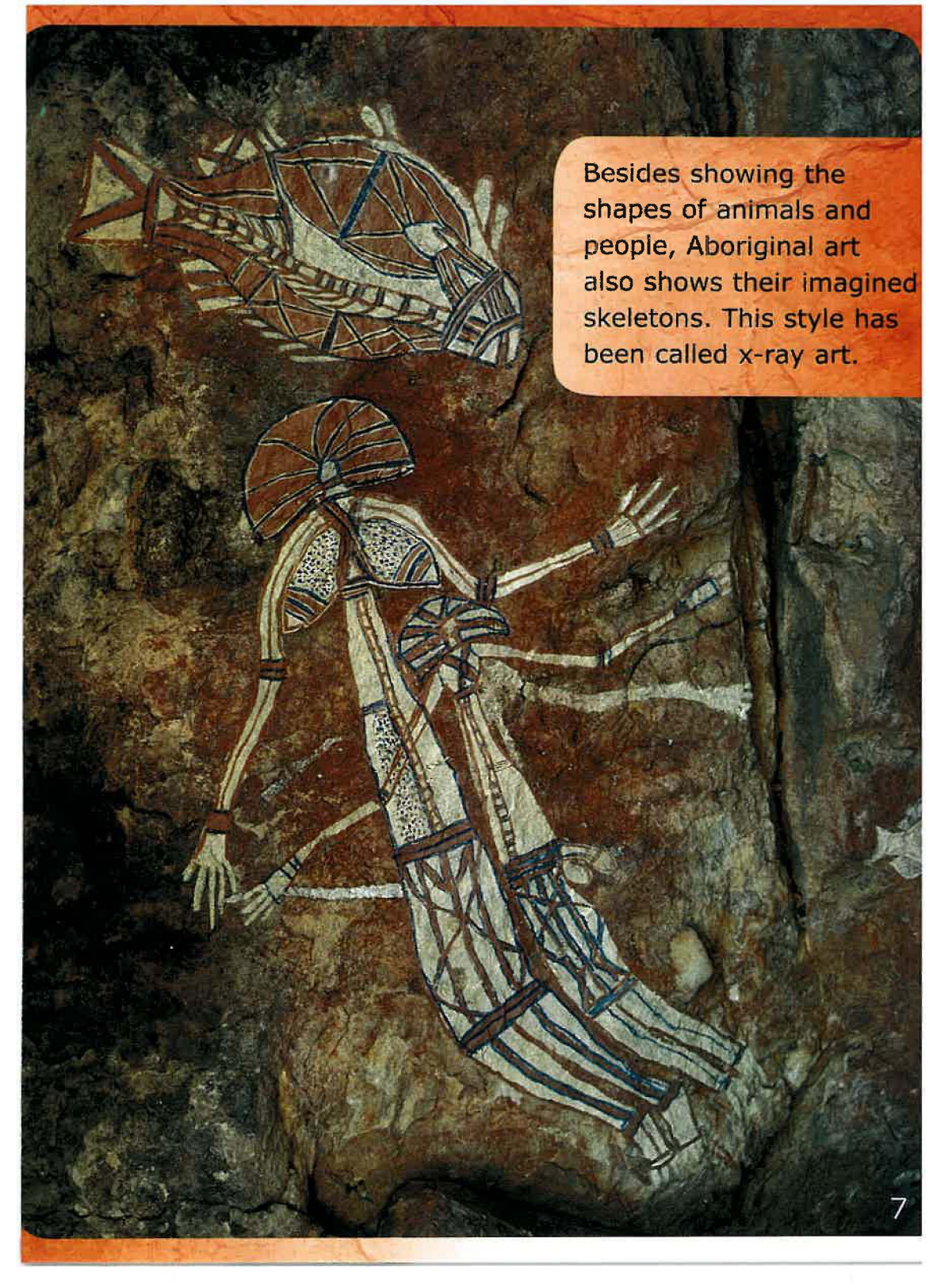


The cave paintings made by the Aboriginal people of Australia are among the oldest pieces of art in the world. Some of these paintings may have been made up to 65,000 years ago.

Today, Aboriginal art is often still created as it was long ago. The paint is made from natural materials, and the colours have stayed the same—white from chalk, yellowish-red from soil and black from charcoal.



In 1940, two boys discovered paintings of animals on cave walls in France. The paintings were found to be 17,000 years old. It is believed people painted the pictures before going hunting. They probably hoped the pictures would help them find food.

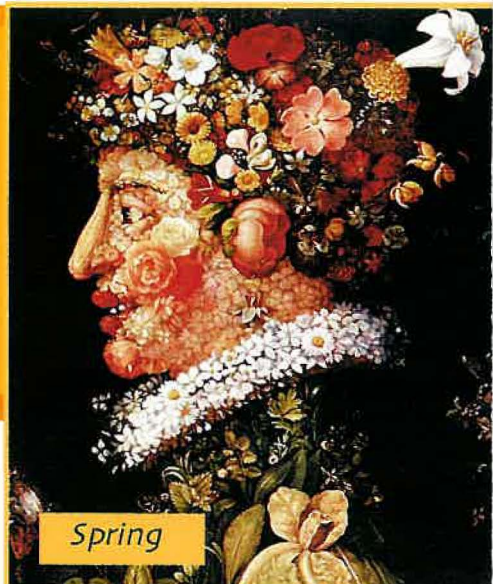
The image shows two pieces of Aboriginal rock art on a dark, textured rock surface. The upper piece is a fish, rendered in white and ochre, with its body filled with a complex network of intersecting lines that represent its internal skeletal structure. Below it is a human figure, also in white and ochre, with a similar network of lines overlaid on its body to show the skeleton. The figure has a large, rounded head and is depicted in a walking or dancing pose. The background is the natural, uneven surface of the rock, which is painted in shades of brown and black.

Besides showing the shapes of animals and people, Aboriginal art also shows their imagined skeletons. This style has been called x-ray art.

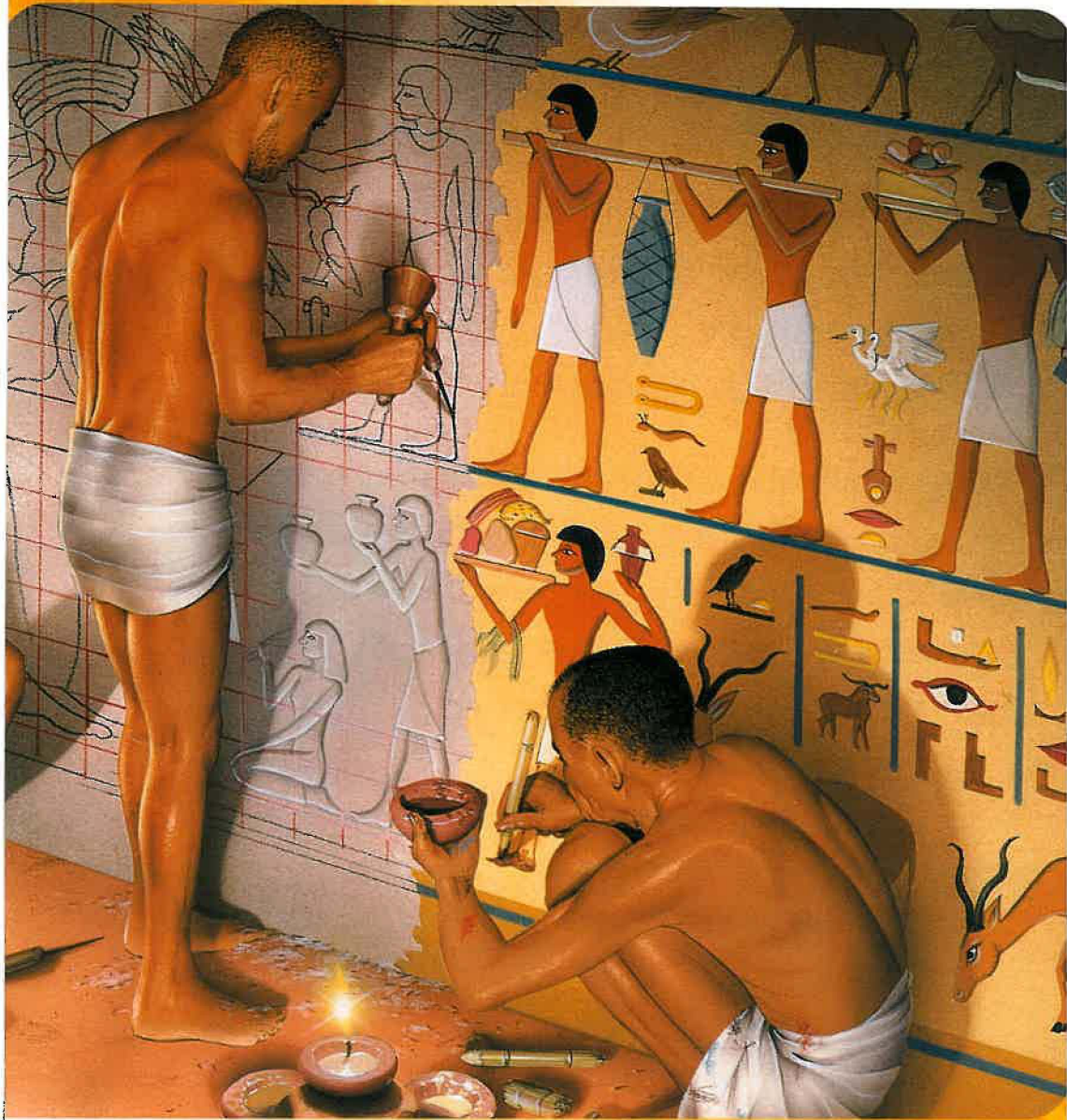
Painting a Story

Have you ever heard the saying “A picture speaks a thousand words”? What this means is that a painting can tell you a story just as well as a book can. By looking closely, you can learn much more than what the picture seems to be showing. Hidden in the brush strokes are the artist’s feelings about the subject. You can find clues about the habits and beliefs of the people who lived during the time the art was made. You can think about what the artist was trying to say in the painting.

Over 400 years ago, an Italian artist painted a picture called *Spring* (right). The artist expressed his feeling about spring by painting a woman made of spring flowers and leaves.



Spring



Long ago in Egypt, there were rules for painting people. Whole bodies had to be shown. Shoulders were to be towards the viewer, but heads, legs and feet were supposed to be turned to one side or the other.

Making an Impression

There are many different styles of painting. Some artists try to make their paintings look just like real life. This is called **realism**. Others paint in an **abstract** style.

Impressionism is another style of art. Artists called impressionists paint what they see at a glance. The impressionists like their paintings to show scenes that look natural, as if they have just happened.



The American impressionist Mary Cassatt lets us peek in on a mother washing her child's feet. The mother's hands are strong but gentle. No words are needed to tell us that this is a happy bath time!



The Bath



Not everyone likes the same art. Even when you look at art that you may not like, you can learn about famous artists and the times when they lived.





Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)



Self-portrait by Picasso,
aged 26

Pablo Picasso was one of the world's greatest artists. During his lifetime, he created thousands of works of art. Picasso liked to try out new ideas. He drew in different ways, and his use of colour was often unusual. As well as being a painter, Picasso was also a sculptor, a set and costume designer, a potter and a printmaker.

Picasso was born in Spain and spent most of his life in France. His father was an art teacher, and Picasso spent his early years studying and copying the work of great artists. It is said that Picasso learnt to draw before he learnt to talk. In fact, the first word he spoke was *lápiz*, Spanish for "pencil".



The Weeping Woman



The First Steps



Picasso worked with another artist to develop a new style of art called **cubism**. Cubism is based on the belief that painting does not need to show us things we can already see. Instead, it can show things in a different way. In his own words, Picasso said, "A painter paints to unload himself of feelings."

Sewing a Story



For thousands of years, people have also told stories through sewing. A famous work of **embroidery** shows the story of an important battle fought in England. This piece of fabric art was stitched nearly 1,000 years ago. It has 73 scenes, is nearly 70 metres long and is about 50 centimetres high. With this long work of art, you can learn about each part of the battle without needing any words!



The famous Bayeux Tapestry shows the **Norman Conquest** of England in 1066.

Today, there are also artists who use sewing to tell a story. The American artist Faith Ringgold combines painting and sewing to make "story quilts". This quilt shows women at a quilting bee. It honours the tradition of African American women working together to make things that are both useful and beautiful.



Cotton Fields, Sunflowers, Blackbirds and Quilting Bees



Dancing a Story

You are sitting in a theatre, the music starts, the curtain opens and the story begins. But there are no words! That's because you're at the ballet. Dancers in a ballet express a mood or tell a story by using only their bodies and faces.

Ballet is a living art that can change slightly from one performance to another. The audience listens to the music and watches the story unfold.

The most important part of a ballet is the dancing, but the music, scenery and costumes all help to tell the story. Some ballets have stories and music that were made specially for dancing. Others are fairy tales, such as *Cinderella* in the picture below.



Many good stories, such as the *Tales of Beatrix Potter*, have been made into ballets.

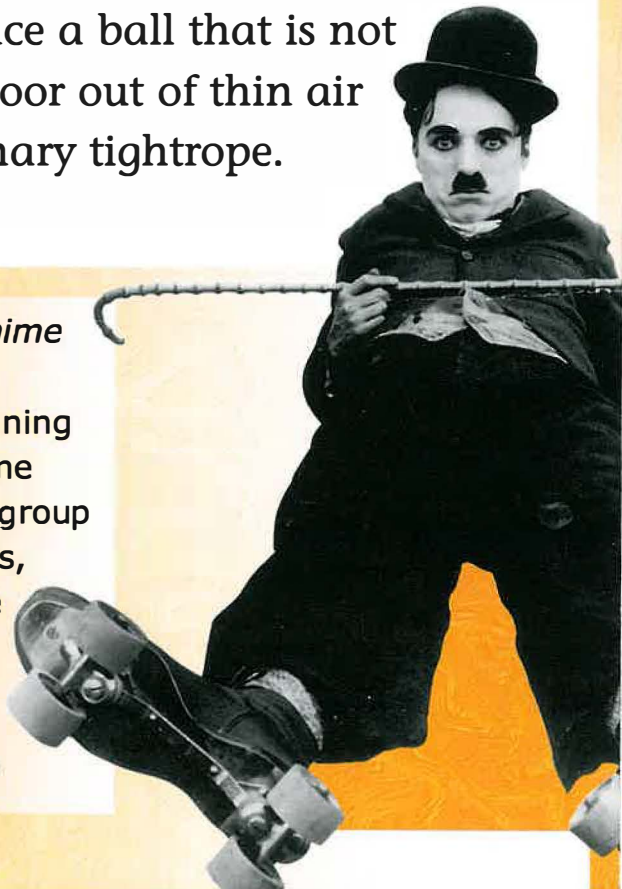


Miming a Story

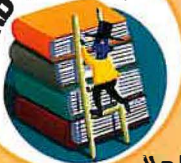


Pantomime, or mime, is the art of acting without words. All actors use some mime when they show their mood through their bodies and faces. Ballet dancers and opera singers also use mime.

A mime artist can act out whole stories without ever having to speak. Instead of moving with real objects, they mime, or pretend. A good mime artist can bounce a ball that is not really there, open a door out of thin air or walk on an imaginary tightrope.

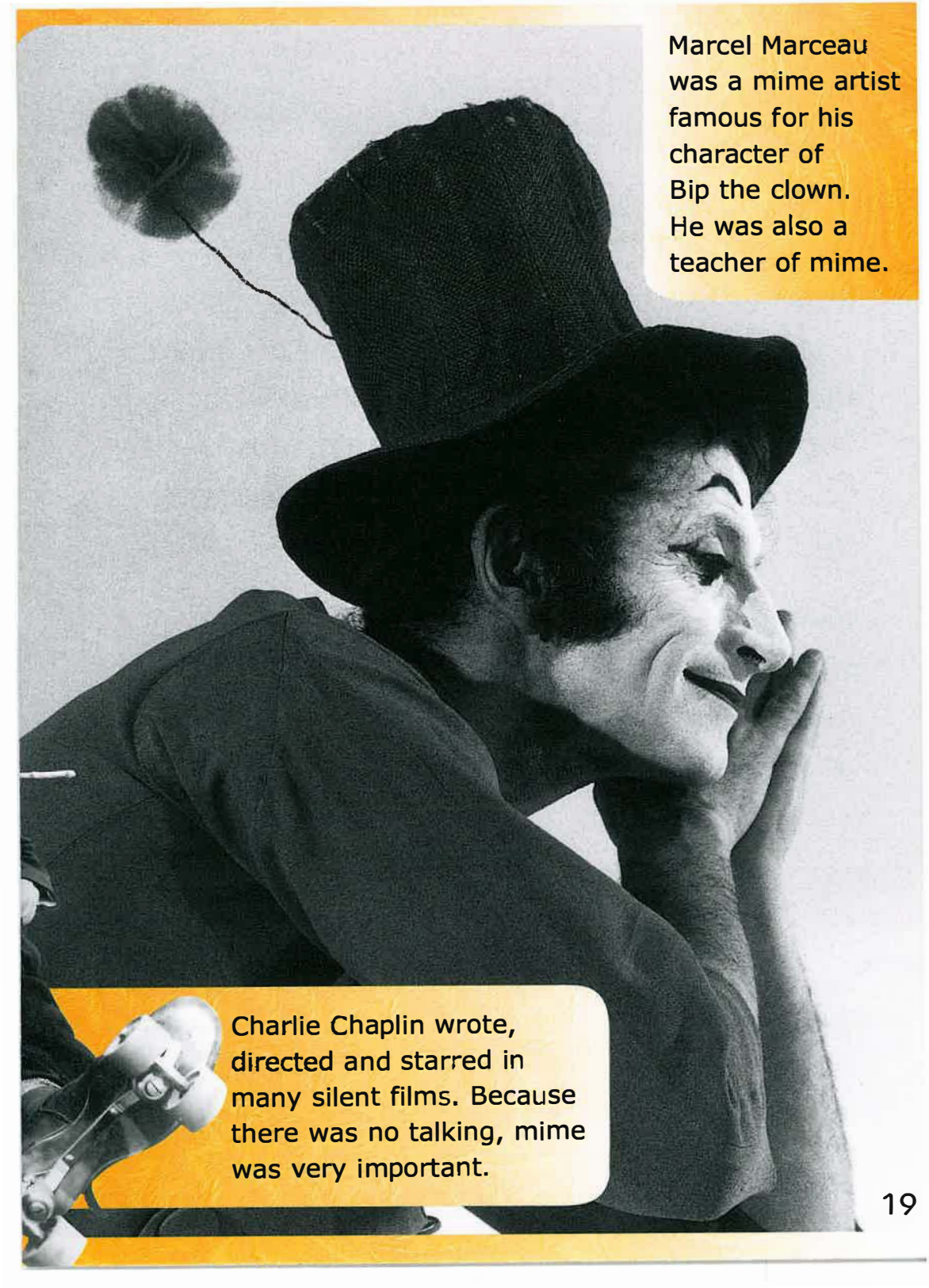


WORD BUILDER




The word *pantomime* comes from the Greek words meaning “all mimic”. Pantomime began in ancient Rome. A group of people, called the chorus, told the story. At the same time, one silent dancer used masks and costumes to mimic, or act out, the story.





Marcel Marceau was a mime artist famous for his character of Bip the clown. He was also a teacher of mime.



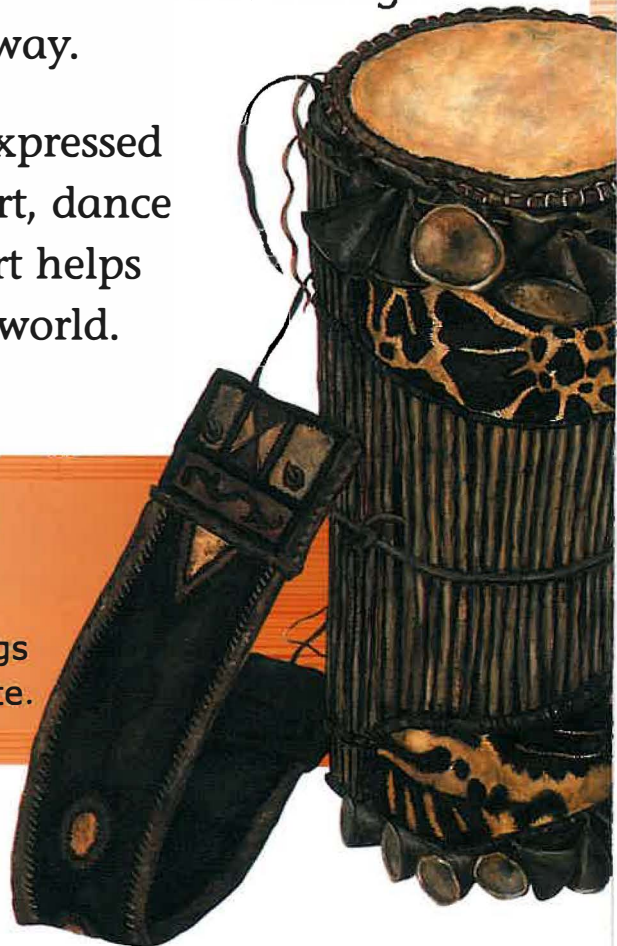
Charlie Chaplin wrote, directed and starred in many silent films. Because there was no talking, mime was very important.

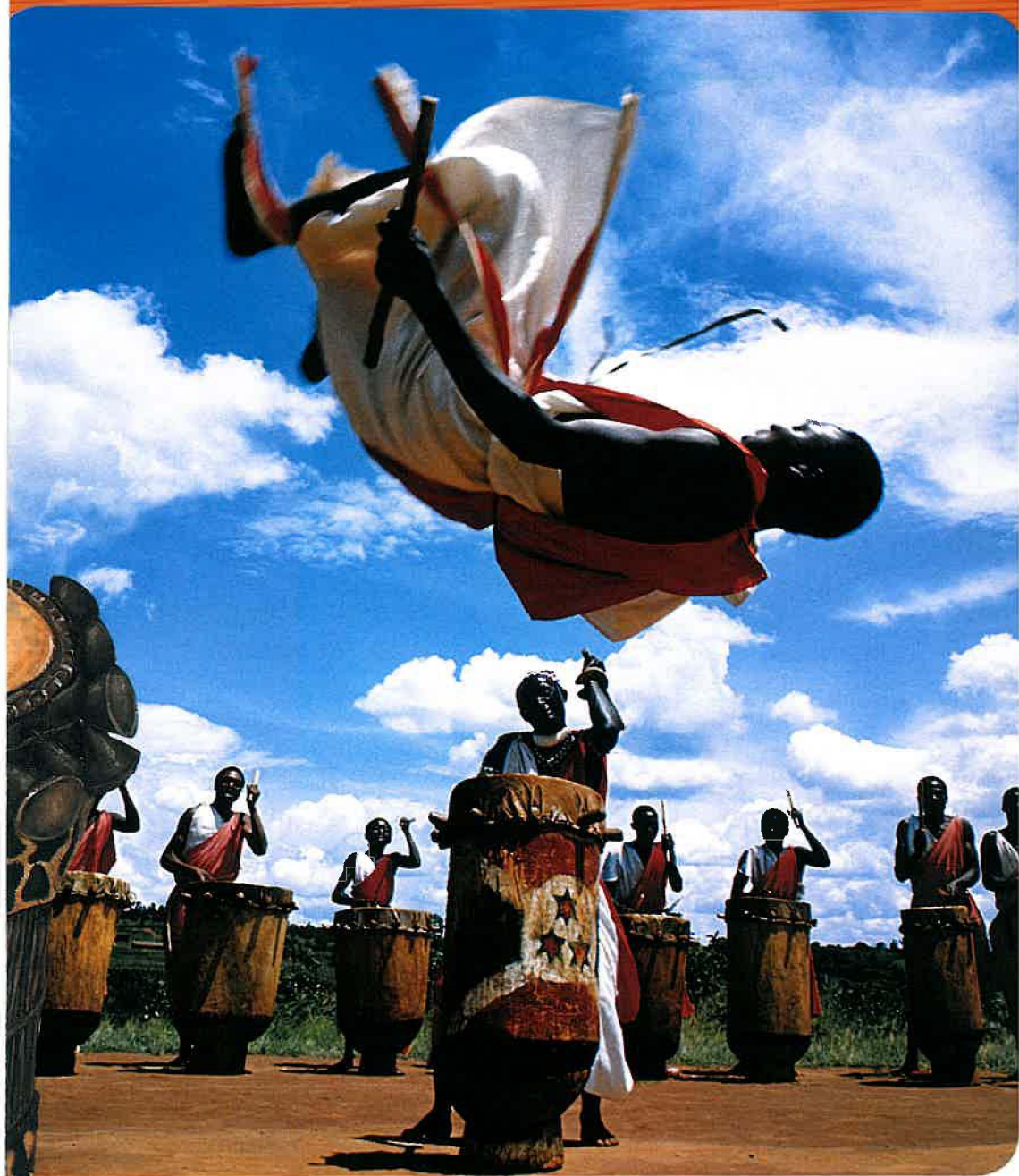
Musical Moods

Moods, feelings and stories can also be shared through music. There are many different kinds of music and musical instruments. They all have different sounds and are played in different ways. The people of northern Nigeria, in Africa, play “talking drums”. They can use these drums to send messages up to 28 kilometres away.

People have always expressed themselves through art, dance and music. Making art helps us make sense of our world.

A talking drum has strings laced from one end of the drum to the other. The drummer presses the strings to raise and lower each note.





In different countries, drums are used for dancing rhythms, to frighten an enemy or as a way of calling for good weather. In Europe in the 1500s, they were used by dentists to drown out their patients' yells of pain!



Glossary

abstract – a style of art that does not actually look like the real subject. Abstract art often has strong shapes, colors and patterns.

cubism – a style of art in which shapes are often used to show the subject of a painting

embroidery – a piece of art where designs have been stitched onto cloth

impressionism – a style of art in which the painter shows an impression, or sensed idea, of an object, person or scene

Norman Conquest – the taking over of England by William, Duke of Normandy (now part of France). In 1066, William won the Battle of Hastings and became the new King of England.

realism – a style of art in which the painter carefully shows things as they really are

sculpture – the art of shaping wood, stone, metal or clay into statues or other objects



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Discussion Starters

1 Why do people around the world make art? What is your favorite piece of art in this book? Why do you like that piece?

2 People used to believe that only painting, sculpture, writing, dancing and music were true forms of art or “fine art”. Now many other things are considered to be art. What makes something art? Is flower arranging or gymnastics art? Why or why not?

3 Painters use paint and a canvas or paper. Sculptors use wood, stone, metal or clay. Musicians use instruments. What do dancers use to make art? Will they always be able to dance? How can they pass their knowledge to other people?

