

How Many Mammoths?

Instructions for Teachers

Activity Overview

Ice Age artists often created “superimpositions” in their art - drawing or painting one thing on top of another. Sometimes this seems to have been used to create the appearance of movement in the animals they portrayed, and sometimes it happens because groups would return to the same caves over hundreds or thousands of years, adding to existing art. Some other pieces seem to have a magical quality to them, where the act of drawing might have been more important than the appearance of the finished art.

This activity introduces children to how complex Ice Age art can be. You can use the activity for inspiration in making your own cave art. The children could work together, designing and creating their own art mural, with all the different images blending into one another in the finished piece.

Learning Objectives

History (Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age)

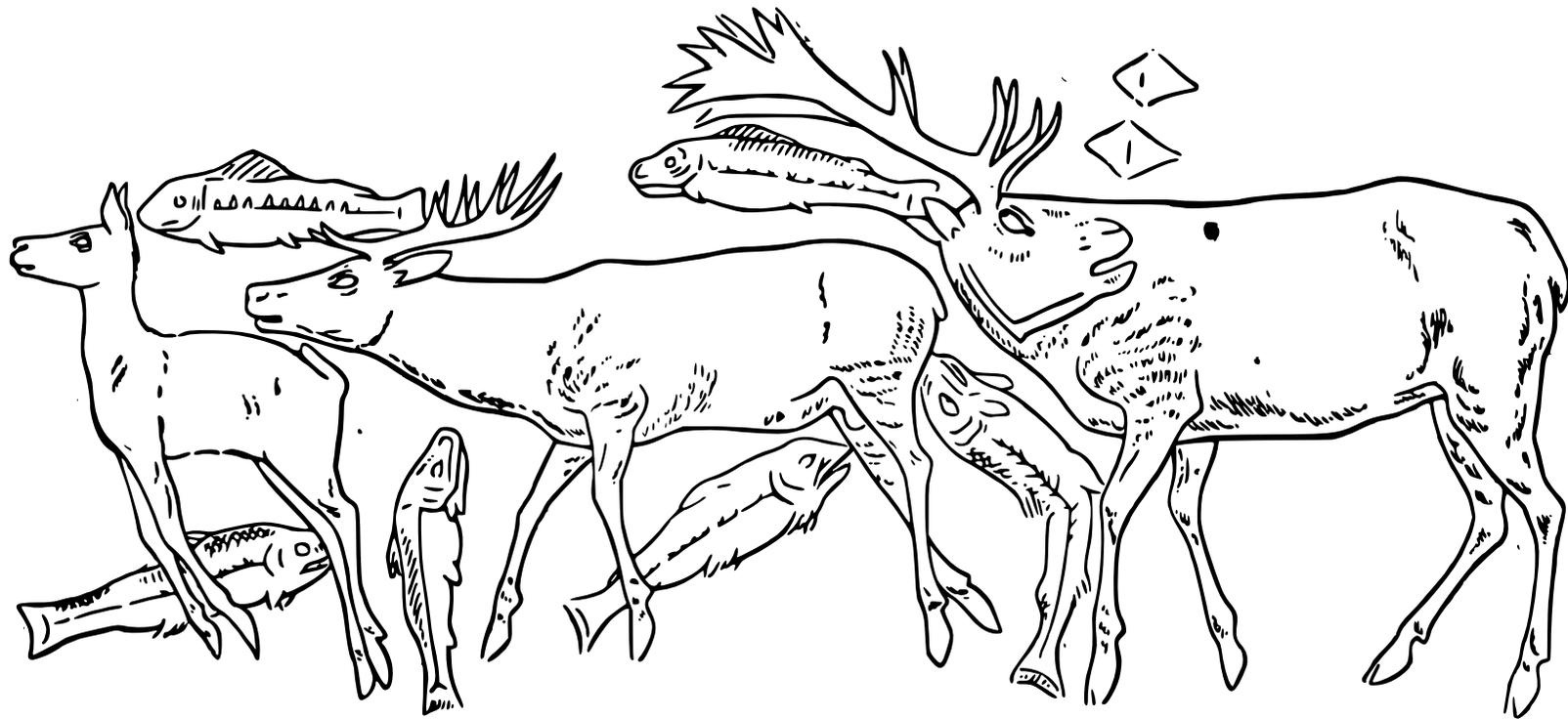
Resources Required

A4 Paper

Printer

Craft paper, paint, artist’s charcoal, paint in earthen colours (optional)

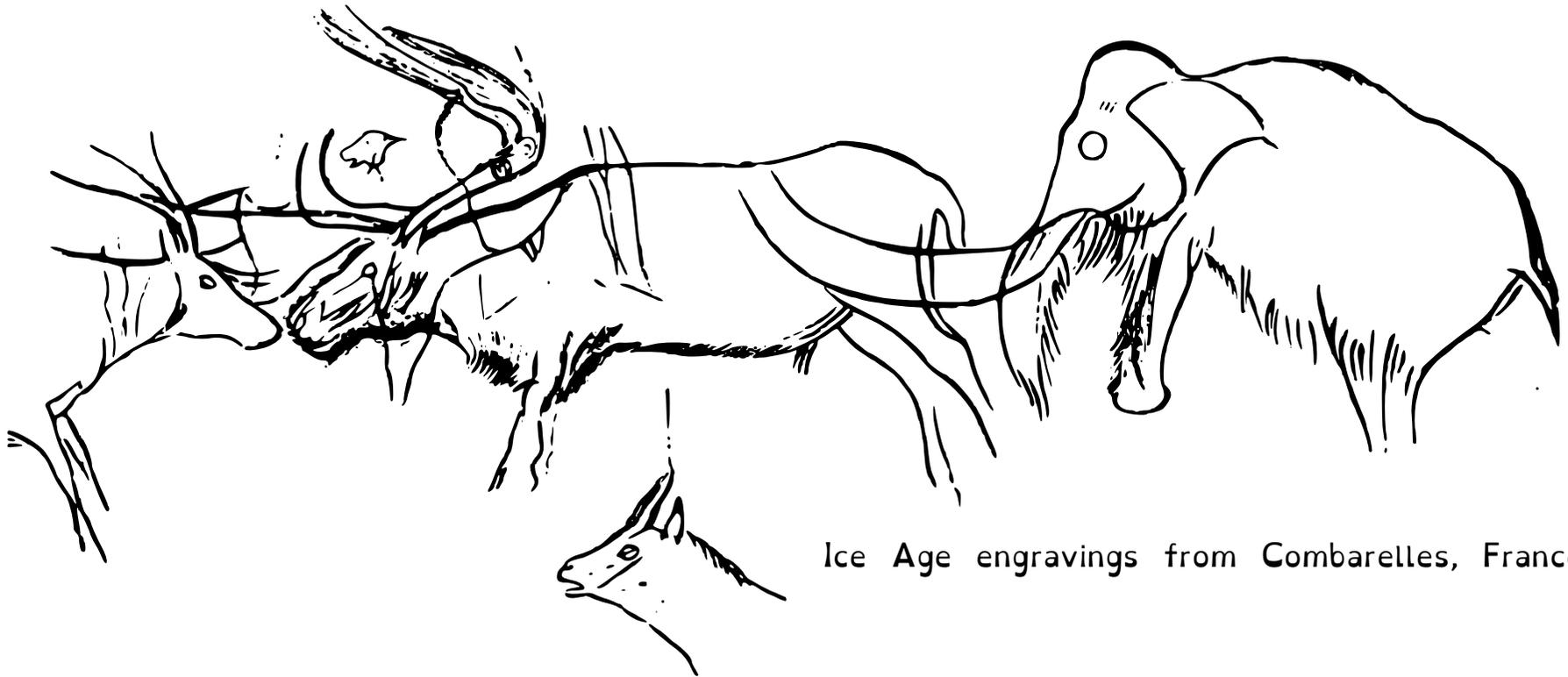
Ice Age artists didn't make things easy for the archaeologists of today! They liked to draw and paint lots of different animals in their pictures, which can make it really hard to tell them all apart! How many animals can you find in the picture?



Ice Age engraving from Lortet, France

I found... ___ Deer and ___ Fish

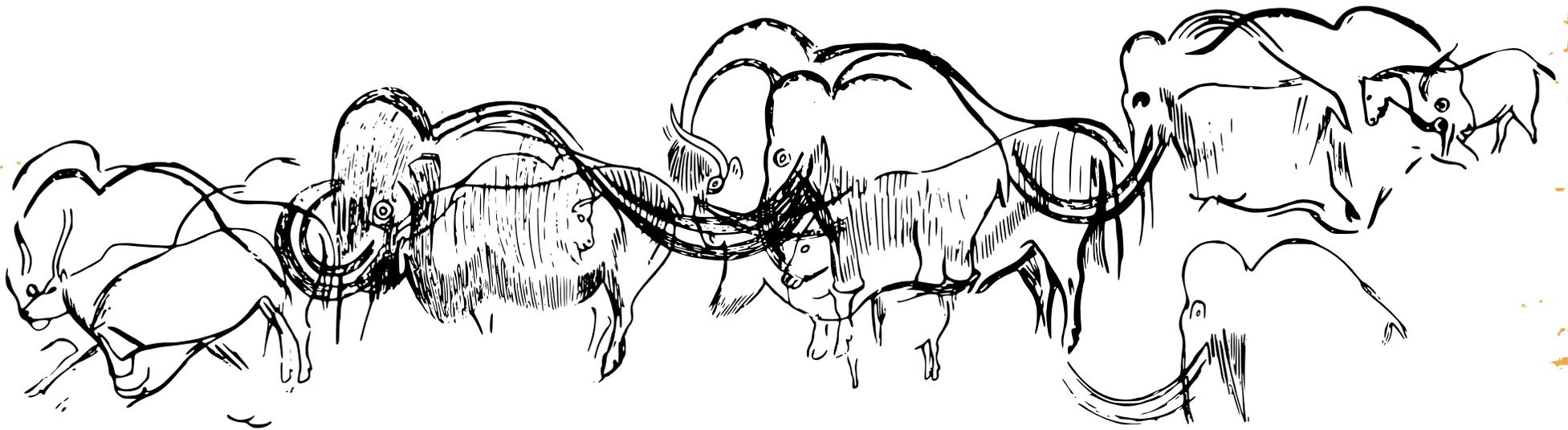
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Ice Age engravings from Combarelles, France

I found... ___ Deer, ___ Bison and ___ Mammoth

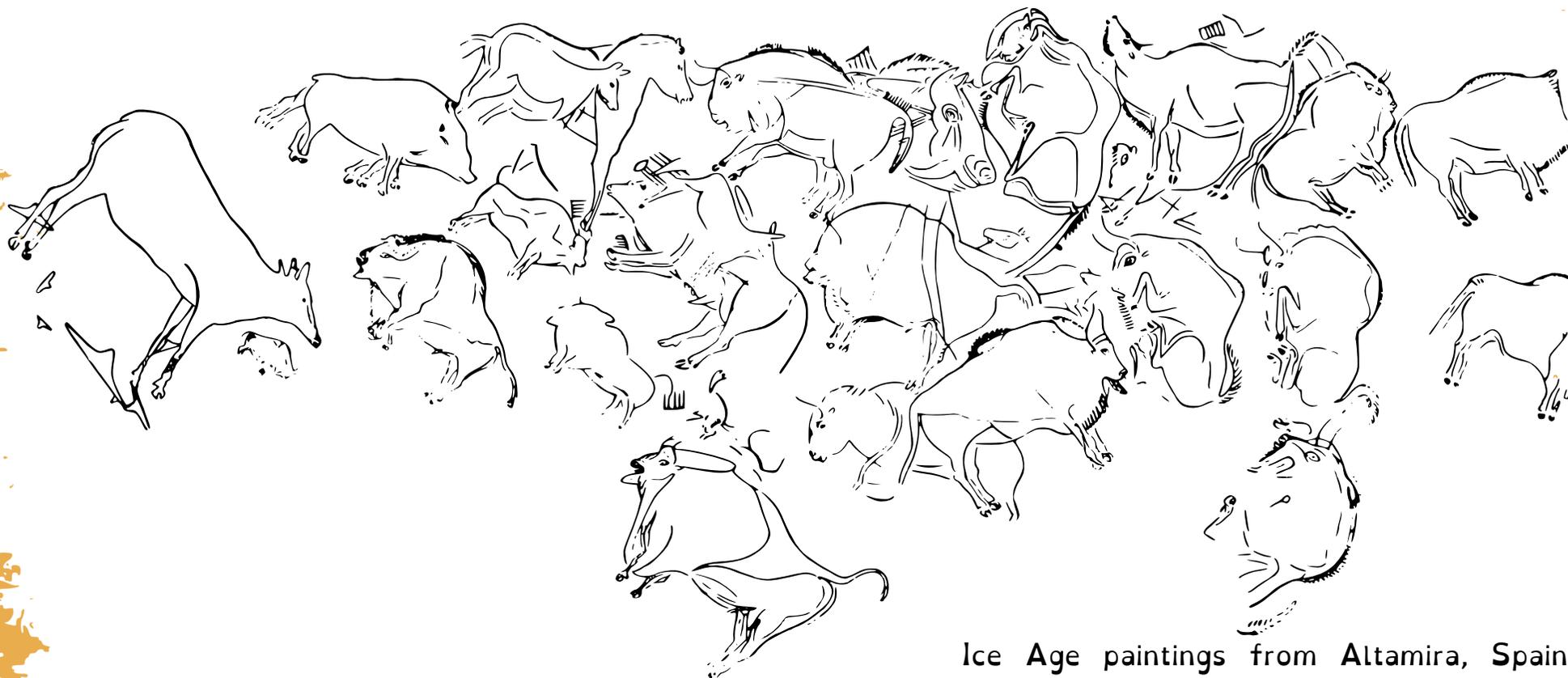
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Ice Age paintings from Font de Gaume, France

I found... ___ Mammoths, ___ Bison, ___ Deer and ___ Horses

Hard mode! Some Ice Age painters covered entire ceilings of caves with art. No hints this time! How many animals can you find?



Ice Age paintings from Altamira, Spain

I found... _____