

Modals

Chapters 9 & 10



**Your Trip to the Southwest:
Native American Rock Art**

Any visit to the southwestern states **should include** a trip to see the amazing Rock Art of the prehistoric Native Americans. The term *rock art* refers to two types of art forms- *petroglyphs*, which are carved into the rock, and *pictographs*, which are painted on the rock. In some National Parks, you **don't have to look** far to find magnificent petroglyphs because they seem to be on just about every rock or cliff face. In other areas, you **have to hike** up to caves or into canyons to see the rock art, but it is well worth the effort. Regardless of where you go, you **ought to bring** a camera to record these hauntingly beautiful images.

Use *must* or *have to* to express necessity.

In other areas, you **have to hike** up to caves or into canyons to see the rock art.

Can you see the rock art from your car?

NO

What is necessary to see the rock art?

You have to leave the car and hike up to caves or into canyons.

Use *don't have to* when talking about lack of necessity.

You **don't have to look** far to find magnificent petroglyphs because they seem to be on just about every rock or cliff face.

Is it necessary to look far?

NO.

You **don't have to look** far.

Should and *ought to* are used to express advisability.

You **should see** the rock art in New Mexico.

Same meaning?

You **ought to see** the rock art in New Mexico.

Should and *ought to* are used to express advisability.

You **should see** the rock art in New Mexico.

You **ought to see** the rock art in New Mexico.

Both mean it's a good idea to see the rock art.

Practice 1

Write a sentence for each of the modals.

must have to don't have to ought to should

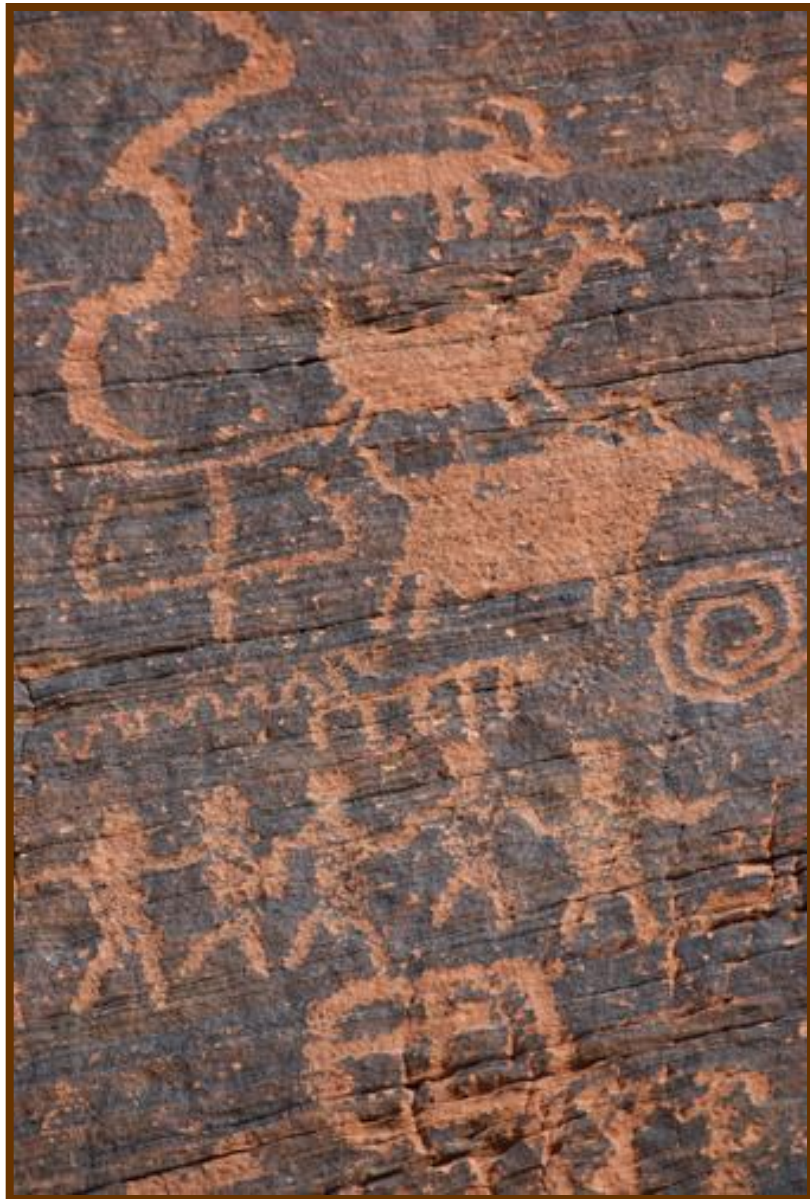
1. _____.

2. _____.

3. _____.

4. _____.

5. _____.



The rock art spans thousands of years and an area that includes almost all of the United States and Mexico. However, the southwestern states contain an unusually high number of images, often clustered around old settlements. As you walk through these areas, you **may find** figures of people, animals, or plants carved into the rock. You **can** also **see** unique geometric patterns. What **were** these patterns **supposed to represent**? We **may** never **know**. The artists **could have been illustrating** rain or lightning. Or they **may have been trying** to depict emotions such as joy or sadness. Whatever the meaning, the beauty they had intended to convey is plain to see.

Use *was / were supposed to* when talking about unknown or unfulfilled plans or expectations in the past.

What **were** these patterns **supposed to represent**?

We have no idea of the purpose of the artist, so we can only guess.

Perhaps the rock art **was supposed to tell** a story.

Progressive form of modals express a possibility about something in progress, either now or in the past.

The artist **could have been illustrating** rain.
modal + have been + -ing

When did the artist live?

in the past

What were they doing?

illustrating rain

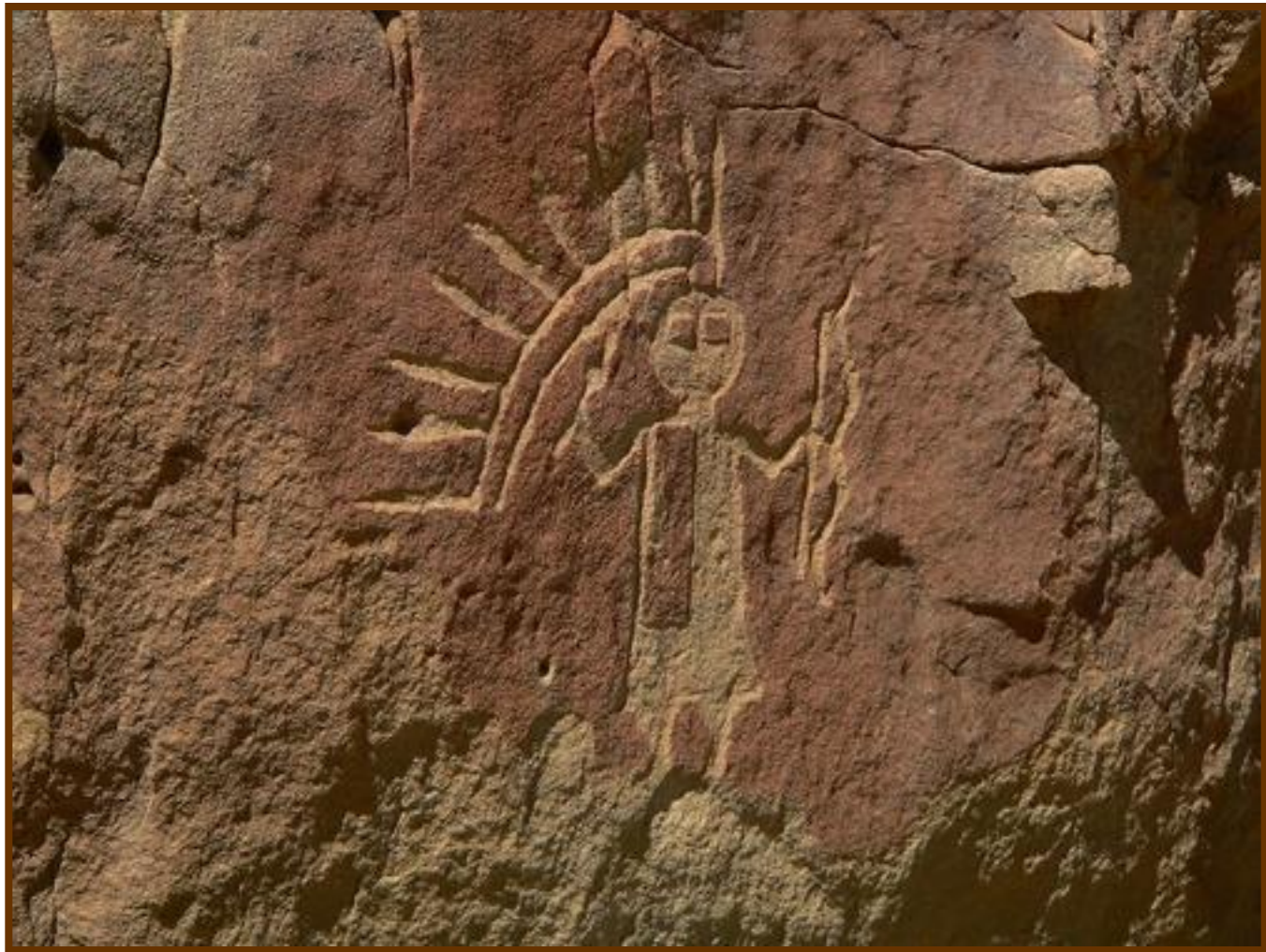
Are we certain?

No.

Perhaps they were.

Practice 2 - Complete the sentences with the given verbs and an appropriate modal. More than one modal may be possible.

1. Scientists (learn) **can learn** a lot by analyzing rock art from different areas.
2. Look! Those students are taking samples from the rocks. They (study) **must be studying** the rock art.
3. The park ranger (give) **was supposed to give** a tour of the rock art today, but it's been cancelled.
4. As they carved the rock, the prehistoric artists (hope) **might have been hoping** people in the future would see their art.



The reason why these prehistoric peoples created the rock art remains a mystery. Many scientists believe the artists **must have created** it for ceremonial purposes. Others think they **may have created** it as a form of language or to mark territorial claims. Some people have even speculated the rock art **could depict** visits from aliens or people from outer space, but most scientists don't think this is true. A much simpler explanation is that the rock art **could just be** the innocent drawings of ancient peoples. Whatever the reason, we **may never know**, given the long time period over which the rock art occurred and the vast geographic area where it can be found.

Degrees of Certainty: present tense

The rock art **must tell** a story.

The rock art **could depict** visits from aliens.

Which one is more certain?

must

95% sure

may

might

could

50% sure or less

Degrees of Certainty: past tense

past
modal + *have* + participle

The artists must have created it for ceremonial purposes.

Others think they **may have created** it as a form of language.

Which one is more certain?

Negative: In both present and past, the degrees of certainty for modals change (except for *must*).

PRESENT

The rock art **may not tell** a story.

The rock art **couldn't depict** visits from aliens.

Which one is more certain?

couldn't

can't



99% sure

must not

95% sure

may not

might not



50% sure
or less

Negative: In both present and past, the degrees of certainty for modals change (except for *must*).

PAST

The artists **may not have wanted** to tell a story.

The artists **couldn't have depicted** visits from aliens.

couldn't have
can't have

99% sure

must not have

95% sure

may not have
might not have

50% sure
or less

Practice 3

Use Degrees of Certainty modals to answer the questions in your own words. Many answers are possible.

- 1. Why were the petroglyphs made?**
- 2. What did the geometric patterns mean?**
- 3. What is the most frequently seen image in the rock art?**
- 4. What image probably is not seen in the rock art?**

CREDITS

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