

人們認為來自倫敦的一位傢俱管理員解開了冰河時期洞穴壁畫裡一系列標記的謎團。此發現有助於理解為什麼當時的狩獵採集者會畫洞穴壁畫。

Archaeologists have long **puzzled** over series of dots, lines, and marks shaped like a letter 'Y', placed on or near the often-beautiful **depictions** of Palaeolithic animals in European caves - creatures like mammoths, bison and horses.

長期以來，考古學家一直對一系列點、線和形狀像字母“Y”的標記感到困惑，這些點、線和標記多出現在歐洲洞穴中如猛獁象、野牛和馬的美麗的舊石器時代動物壁畫上方或附近。

Ben Bacon, an **enthusiast**, studied thousands of images - pursuing a theory the marks could depict a **lunar calendar** linked to the animal's **life cycles**. The branching 'Y' sign, he postulated, could mean giving birth.

本·培根是一位考古愛好者，他研究了數千幅壁畫圖像，並提出一種理論，即這些標記描繪了與動物生命週期有關的陰曆，他推測，上方分支的“Y”形標記可能代表生育。

Bringing in academics and using statistical analysis, the team are shown striking **correlations** between the sequences and the months that such animals would have **mated** and given birth. They argue it's the first **proto-writing system** in human history.

透過邀請學術人員參與研究和**使用統計分析**，該考古團隊發現，這些符號序列與動物的交配和分娩月份之間存在著顯著的**相關性**，他們認為這是人類歷史上第一套**原始書寫系統**。

1. 字彙表

archaeologists	考古學家
puzzled	困惑了
depictions	描繪
enthusiast	愛好者
lunar calendar	陰曆
life cycles	生命週期
correlations	相關性
mated	交配了
proto-writing system	原始書寫系統

2. 閱讀理解：請在讀完上文後，回答下列問題。（答案見下頁）

1. What have archaeologists long puzzled over about Ice Age cave paintings?

2. Where have these marks been seen?

3. What did enthusiast Ben Bacon think the 'Y' sign might mean?

4. True or false? *Ben Bacon thought the marks illustrated an animal's life cycle.*

3. 答案

1. What have archaeologists long puzzled over about Ice Age cave paintings?

A series of dots, lines, and marks shaped like a letter 'Y'.

2. Where have these marks been seen?

These marks have been seen on or near the often-beautiful depictions of Palaeolithic animals in European caves.

3. What did enthusiast Ben Bacon think the 'Y' sign might mean?

He thought the 'Y' sign could mean giving birth.

4. True or false? *Ben Bacon thought the marks illustrated an animal's life cycle.*

False. Ben Bacon thought the marks could depict a lunar calendar linked to the animal's life cycles.