

# Color A Petroglyph

**Discover ancient carved rocks by coloring a picture of the Seal Stone!**

Petroglyphs are carvings or engravings made by chipping away a picture on a rock's surface. The Seal Stone is a petroglyph from Shemya Island in the Aleutians Islands of Alaska.

## Materials:

Seal Stone coloring page, crayons (or colored pencils or markers).

## Instructions:

Observe the designs on the stone. What patterns do you see? Do they remind you of anything?

Color the Seal Stone picture on the next page. Let your imagination guide you. Experiment with different colors and designs!

## The Seal Stone Art Motifs



This petroglyph is referred to as the Seal Stone because in its design people often see a seal-like face....but several other motifs have also been identified within the carvings on the stone, including a sea otter, birds, a whale...Many of these same motifs can be found on carved Unangax<sup>^</sup> (Aleut) artifacts like figurines, bentwood hats, and masks from throughout the Aleutian Islands.

-Allison McLain, Independent Researcher, McLain Heritage Consulting

**Discover more about the Seal Stone:**

[www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/archaeo/online-exhibits/sealstone/](http://www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/archaeo/online-exhibits/sealstone/)

# Seal Stone Coloring Page

Seal Stone Petroglyph from  
Shemya Island, Alaska



*Drawing of the Seal Stone by Mareca Guthrie, Curator of Fine Arts at UAMN.*

# Petroglyphs: Ancient Rock Carvings

**Petroglyphs** are carvings or engravings made by chipping away a rock's surface to form a picture. They are found all over the world, and can be hundreds or thousands of years old.



In North America, the oldest known petroglyphs are found in Nevada. They are about 15,000 years old. The oldest petroglyphs in the world are found at the Murujuga site in Australia, and are up to 40,000 years old.

Left: Pueblo petroglyphs in Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona.  
*Image: Wikimedia Commons.*

Petroglyph sites are often very large. They can cover tens of thousands of acres, or entire cliff surfaces. Some sites have been carved continuously for thousands of years.

Petroglyphs are important pieces of our history. They are often sacred to local people, who have lived in those places for thousands of years. Like prehistoric cave paintings, many ancient rock carvings portray animals that are now extinct. Petroglyphs also show some of the earliest known pictures of humans.



Petroglyph in Wrangell, Alaska. *Image: Jerrye & Roy Klotz, via Wikimedia Commons.*



The ancient art of petroglyphs helps us learn about the ways people lived long ago, as well as how places on Earth have changed throughout history.

Left: Petroglyph Replica (Raven Design) by Richard Seeganna.  
UA2003-013-0001.