



CHAPTER ELEVEN

Clues from the Past

In *The First Flame*, the Spark Riders stop at ancient cliff dwellings in the Arizona desert.

They find something else carved into the rocks:

Petroglyphs.

Spirals. Animals. Hands. Human figures. Lines and shapes left behind by people who lived long ago.

Mei looks at the carvings and wonders:

“What if the rock was somebody’s notebook?”

What Is a Petroglyph?

A petroglyph is an image made by carving, scratching, or pecking into rock.

People around the world created petroglyphs thousands of years before phones, photographs, or the notebooks we use today.

They left behind pictures and symbols—but we don't always know exactly what those symbols meant.



1. What Do You See?

Look closely at the petroglyph image.

What shapes, animals, people, or patterns can you find?

What do you think one of the symbols might mean?

There is no need to be right. Some meanings have been lost to time.

2. Leave Your Own Message

Imagine you can leave one picture for someone to discover 1,000 years from now.

You cannot use words.

Draw your message:

What does your picture mean?

3. What Would Survive?

Imagine someone finds clues from your life 1,000 years from now.

What might survive?

A stone carving • A plastic toy • A photograph • A book • A text message

Which one do you think would tell them the most about us?

Why?
