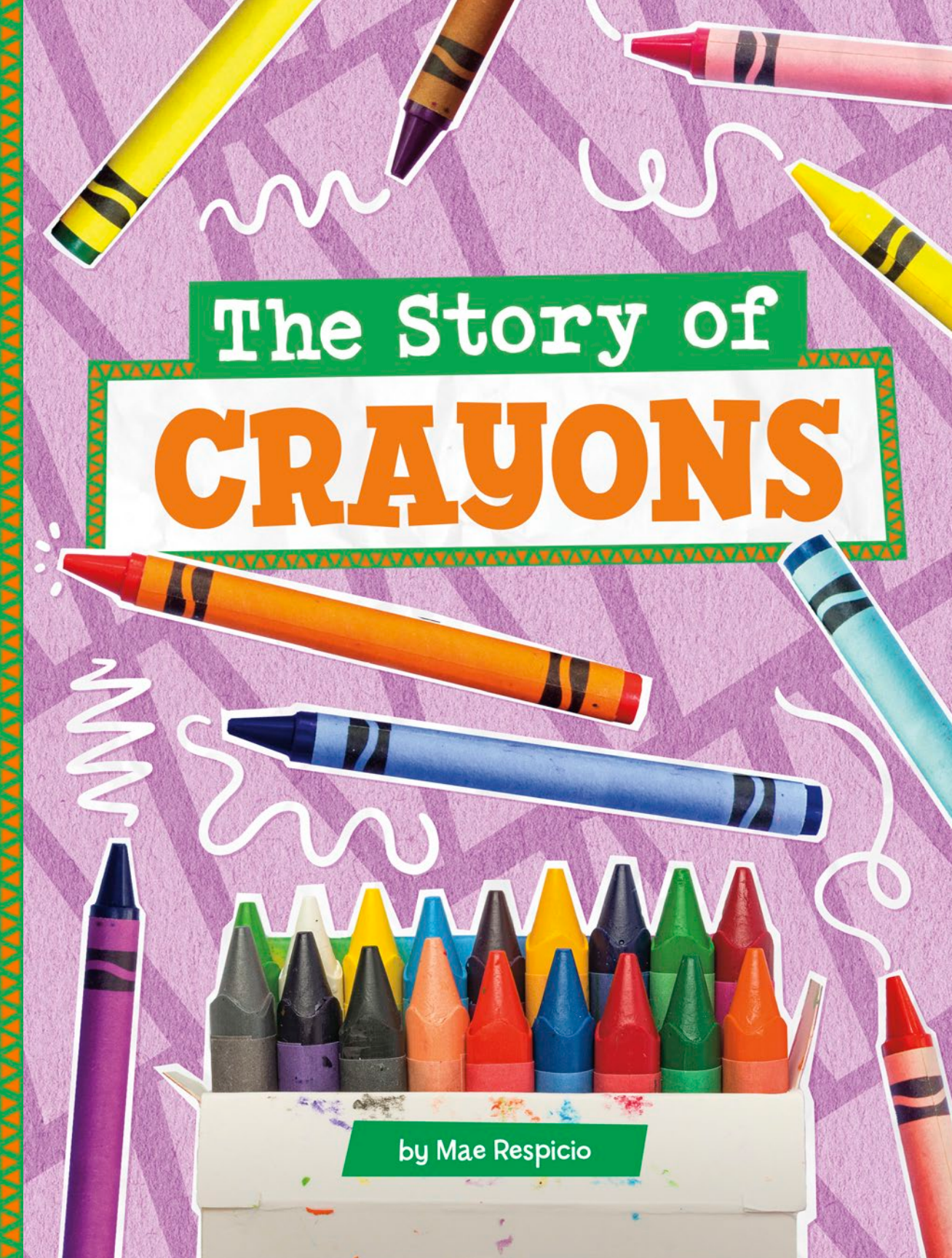




The Story of **CRAYONS**

by Mae Respicio

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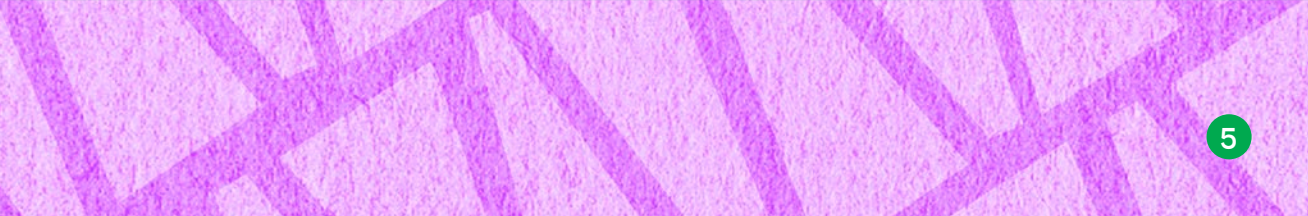
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Words in **bold** appear in the glossary.

All About Crayons

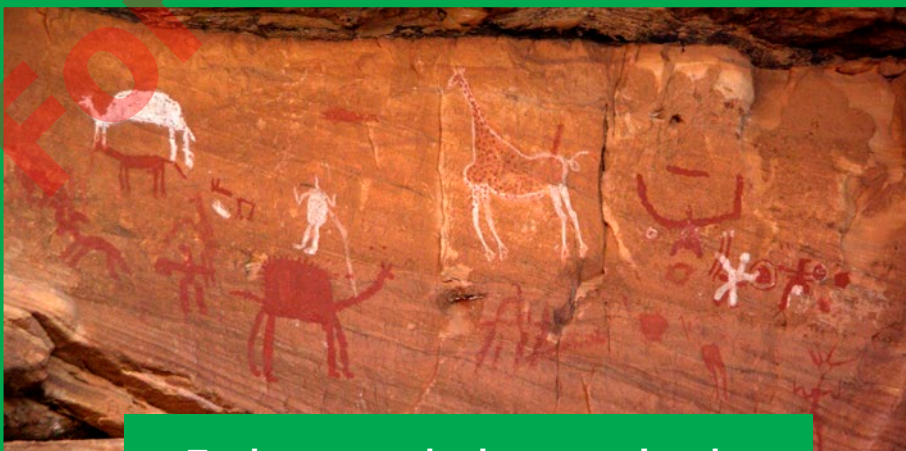
They come in lots of beautiful colors. They help us create art. They help us have fun! What are they? Crayons!

Are crayons just for kids? Not at all. Anyone can use and enjoy them. You just need an imagination. All around the world, people know and love crayons. But how did they become an everyday thing?



History of Crayons

Crayons were not invented by just one person. Throughout history, people have used objects from nature to make art. Some examples include berries, clay, animal fat, crushed rocks, and plants. These materials acted as **pigments** or colors.



Early artwork shows animals.



Ancient drawings also show hunters.

The word crayon comes from the French word *craie*. It means *chalk*. One of the oldest crayons in the world was discovered in England. It was a piece of reddish-brown **ochre**. In 2008 it was tested. It was found to be 10,000 years old!



Tomb walls in Egypt feature colorful artwork.

Ancient Egyptians also used a type of crayon. They mixed **beeswax** with pigments. This made colored sticks. They used them to draw on **tombs** and temples. Crayon-like drawings from 100 CE have been found in Egypt.

In the 1500s,
an artist named
Leonardo da
Vinci used a
type of crayon
called **pastels**.
These were
pigments mixed
with things like
fig juice or fish glue.



Leonardo da Vinci

In the 1700s, some artists used
crayons made from clay. This type
of crayon was the **Conté crayon**.