

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Articles and Demonstrative Adjectives

The adjectives *a*, *an*, and *the* are special adjectives called **articles**. *A* and *an* are **indefinite articles**. They refer to any person, place, or thing. *A* is used before a singular word that begins with a consonant sound. *An* is used before a singular word that begins with a vowel sound.

*The* is a **definite article**. It refers to a specific person, place, or thing.

*The* is used with both singular and plural words.

**The** cave has beautiful paintings. (definite)

**An** artist must have painted them. (indefinite)

**A** variety of animals are on each wall. (indefinite)

We were in there for **an** hour. (indefinite)



The words *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those* are **demonstrative adjectives**. They answer the question: Which one? *This* and *these* point out something or someone nearby.

*That* and *those* point out something farther away.

**This** cave has been here for centuries. (nearby)

**That** one is not as old. (farther away)

**These** paintings are very beautiful. (nearby)

**Those** caves have been shut down to visitors. (farther away)



## 1 Show What You Know

Read the sentences below and circle the articles and demonstrative adjectives.

A teepee cover was a popular canvas for some Native American art. Because teepees were large, artists could use the surface to show an entire battle scene. Sometimes the scenes were complicated. On this side, an artist painted the warriors who fought on horseback. On that side, the artist showed the ones who followed along on foot. This teepee art is very important. It is a part of Native American history.

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## 2 Take It Up a Notch

Read the sentences below and fill in each blank with an article or a demonstrative adjective.

Jill is taking \_\_\_\_\_ trip to South America. She wants to see \_\_\_\_\_ cave paintings she has studied. She is \_\_\_\_\_ curator at \_\_\_\_\_ museum downtown. Jill has always had \_\_\_\_\_ interest in cave paintings. \_\_\_\_\_ caves that are a mile from here have \_\_\_\_\_ most beautiful pictures. But \_\_\_\_\_ caves right here have more paintings than any others. Did she see \_\_\_\_\_ painting in front of her? Right now she is looking at \_\_\_\_\_ one a little farther away. Jill hopes to see all \_\_\_\_\_ caves. She will have \_\_\_\_\_ fascinating story to tell when she comes home!



## 3 On Your Own

Write a description of an event that takes place on a regular basis at your school. Use articles and demonstrative adjectives in your description. Trade descriptions with a partner. How many different demonstrative adjectives did each of you use? Check to be sure you used *a*, *an*, and *the* correctly.



### TFK Tips for Writers

Although articles are the most commonly used adjectives, try not to use them too often. Use specific adjectives whenever possible. For example, instead of saying “The boys painted pictures,” say “Six artistic boys painted pictures.” When you use demonstrative adjectives, be sure it is clear that *this* and *these* refer to something nearby, and *that* and *those* refer to something farther away.