Materials
- Copies or printouts of rock art from the Internet or books. Make sure the images are simple and can be hand copied. (Keep notes on locations and the cultures that produced the art.)
- Scrap pieces of foam core board, approx. 5”x 8”
- Pencil (optional)
- Tooth picks
- Small containers/palettes
- Glue in bottles with small nozzles (Carpenter’s glue works best, but white glue is fine.)
- Tape – masking or duct
- Thick crayons
- Paper

To make the rubbing plates:
1. First, use a pencil to sketch a design from the rock art images onto the foam core.
2. Place a puddle of glue on a palette. Now trace over the sketch on the foam core with the glue. For smaller lines, dots or finer details use a toothpick when placing the glue. Go slowly. For thick lines “draw” with the glue flowing directly from the nozzle. The thicker the glue, the better the rubbing will look later.
3. Let glue dry completely overnight. Tape over the rough edges of the foam core before using.

Using the rubbing plates:
4. Place paper over the plate, making sure to cover it completely. Rub hard with a crayon over the design while holding the paper in place. Try using more than one color per rubbing and the result will be a rainbow-like effect.

Variation
Crumple the paper after rubbing to give it a rock-like texture.

Connections to IDOE Academic Standards:
All students can develop cultural and physical geography knowledge. Place original designs in sheet protectors with information about culture, cultural area and longitude and latitude. Place a map of North America, including Native American cultural areas, nearby. Third grade students can take notes on the region their designs are from, such as Southwest, Plains, etc. Fourth graders and older students can note more specific information, such as latitude and longitude. Student teams can give reports on the types of designs from one region and common, universal designs.
Consider the following IDOE Academic Standards when using this activity. English/Language Arts: 3.1 Vocabulary, 3.2, Reading: locate information, follow instructions. 3.4, Writing: use references, 3.5 write narratives (see similar in fourth, fifth and other grades.); Social Studies: 3.1.1, 3.3.1, 3.3.3; 4.1.1, 4.3.1; 5.1.1, 5.5.2. Visual Arts: 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.9.2; 4.1.2, 4.2.1, 4.9.2; 5.1.1, 5.2.1.