

# Maria de Sautuola

## and the cave paintings of Altamira

### 1. As pupils enter

Have the **web page** open. Play your chosen music. Be ready to display the image of the **cave painting** and **map showing Altamira**.

### 2. Introduction

- Display the image of the bison cave painting. What do pupils think it shows? What animal is it? Can they say anything about where it is painted or the surface it is painted on?
- Discuss with pupils what an *explorer* does. If they could go exploring, where would they like to go? What would they like to discover?
- Who? What? Why? Where? When? These are all good words to help us explore!
- Display the map image showing the location of Altamira within Europe. Tell the assembly that they are going to watch a short video about a young girl - just 8 years old - who made a famous discovery, because she had the curiosity to ask 'Who? What? Why? Where? When?'

### 3. Play the video

The duration is 4' 52". Final words: '...called Maria de Sautuola went exploring.'

### 4. After the video - Time to talk

- Maria's father was an archaeologist. What would you like to find if you were an archaeologist?
- Maria was told that the caves were dangerous. What might have happened to her if she'd gone inside on her own?
- Why do you think Maria gripped her candle very tightly?
- How do you think Maria felt when she first saw inside the cave? Why do you think a shiver went down her spine?
- How do you think she felt when she found the paintings? Who do you think might have created the paintings?
- Maria discovered something that no-one had ever seen before. How does it feel to learn something new?
- What made Maria a good explorer?

### 5. Opportunity to sing

If your assembly is to include a song this would be a good time to sing. You could sing 'While we live we learn' from *All about our school* or 'Give me oil in my lamp' or 'For the beauty of the earth' from *Come and Praise*.

## Video page



### 6. Opportunity to reflect

We've heard today about Maria de Sautuola...a young girl who made an extraordinary discovery...

Maria was a good explorer because she had curiosity and liked to ask questions...questions that begin with 'Who? What? Why? Where? When?'

There is so much in the world around us to explore...new places... new people...new things to learn... How will you be a good explorer like Maria today..?

What will you seek to discover..?

### 7. Opportunity for prayer

Begin with your usual form of address ('Dear God', 'Lord Jesus', 'Let us pray...' etc) and:

**Thank you for the wonderful places and things that we can discover.**

**Thank you for the people who help us make discoveries and learn new things.**

**Help us to share what we learn with other.**

**Amen.**