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Saving the Cave Paintings

In 1940, four boys in France discovered several caves from very long ago. Inside, they found paintings on the walls. It was art that cave people had made! Experts knew these paintings were important. Soon the caves became a museum. The paintings were hard to see, so the museum put up lights. The lights caused the colors in the paintings to fade.

France decided to protect the paintings. In 1963, the country closed the caves. It also decided to build a model of the caves. Artists copied the real paintings onto the walls of the model. They put up lighting so visitors could see the details well. The model took over ten years to build. People can enter the model only when they visit.

Today, France still protects the caves. Experts still study them and learn about how people lived long ago.