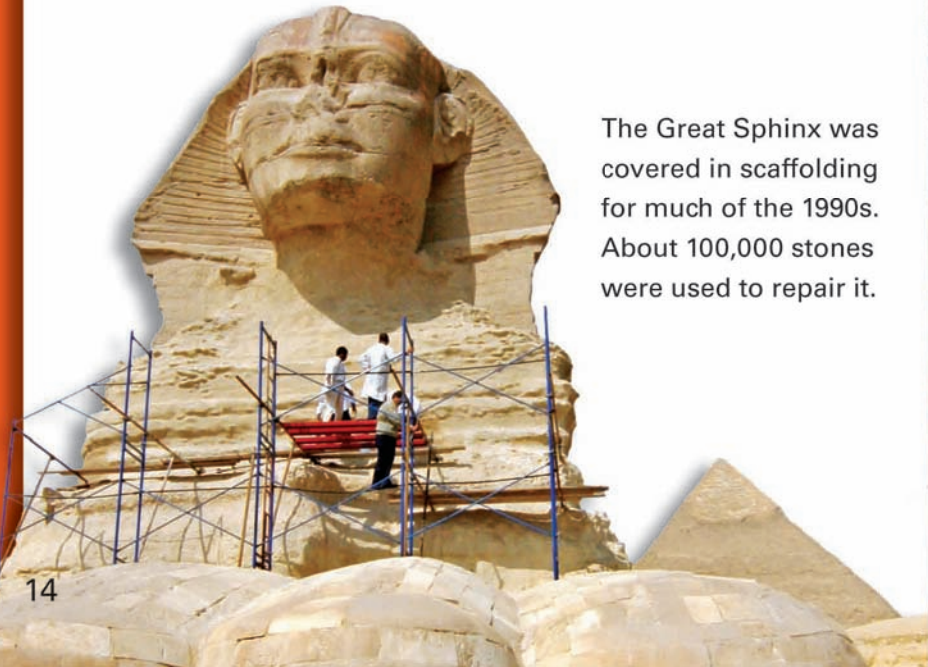


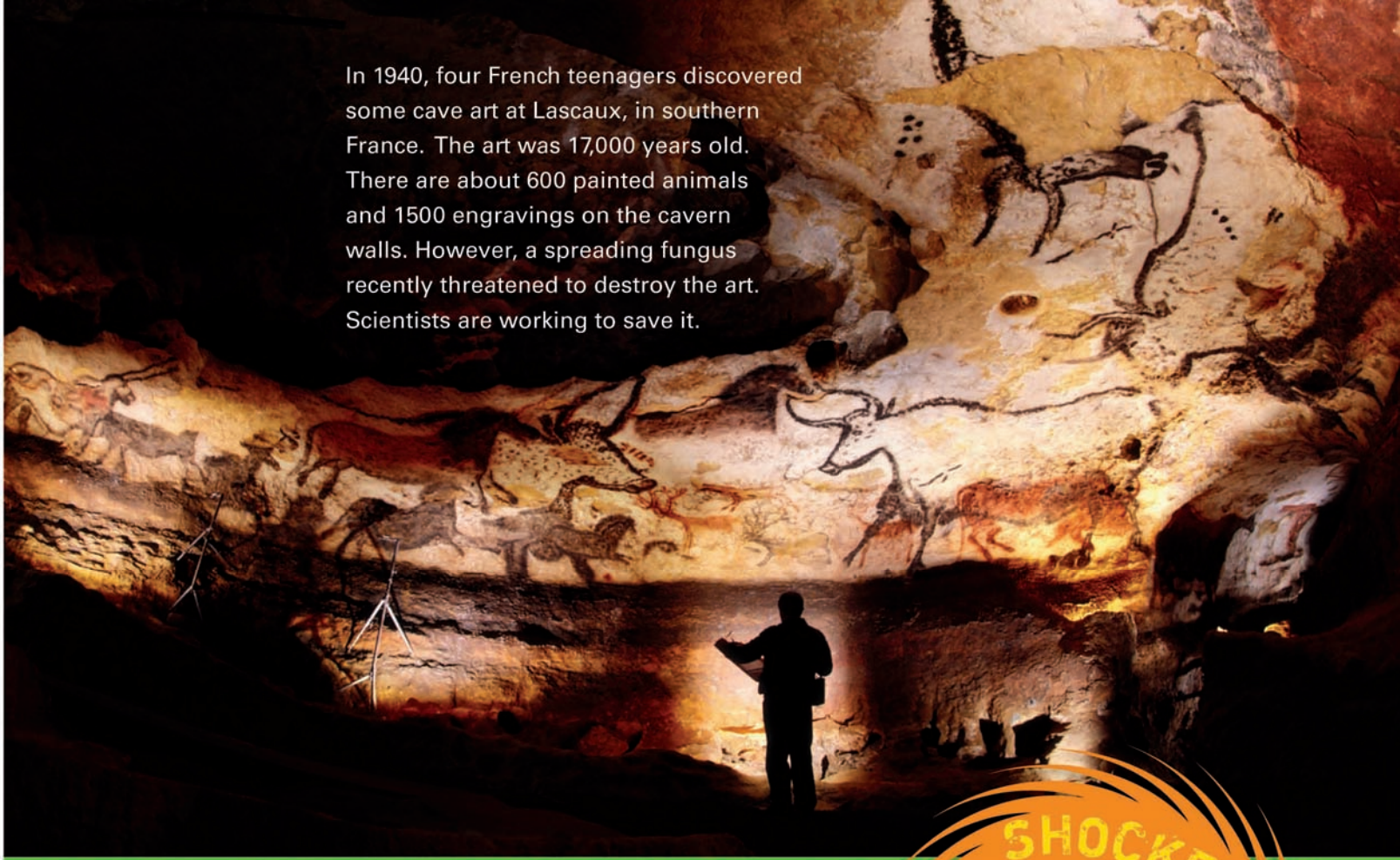
ANCIENT ART, MODERN SCIENCE

Ancient art teaches us about the past. From cave art, scientists work out what mattered to people thousands of years ago. Historians study **medieval** paintings. They use them to see how people used to dress and live.

Experts work to repair and protect old art. If they didn't do so, it would be lost forever. The science of repairing art is called art restoration. Art **conservation**, on the other hand, protects art from future damage. Some restorers and conservators work on huge ancient monuments. Others work on small paintings. There is great skill involved in restoration and conservation. Workers must protect the art. They must also keep it as close to its original form as possible.



The Great Sphinx was covered in scaffolding for much of the 1990s. About 100,000 stones were used to repair it.



In 1940, four French teenagers discovered some cave art at Lascaux, in southern France. The art was 17,000 years old. There are about 600 painted animals and 1500 engravings on the cavern walls. However, a spreading fungus recently threatened to destroy the art. Scientists are working to save it.



SHOCKER

In the past, many restorers did more harm than good. Today, restorers often spend much of their time fixing the work of restorers from 100 years ago.

In 1508, artist Michelangelo began painting the ceiling of Rome's Sistine Chapel. Nearly 500 years later, restorers used computers to repair his work.