

## Caves and the Taino

Caves were important to the Taino as these places figured prominently in their religion and mythology.

The caves were regarded as a uterus, a cosmic receptacle that provides the context for creating and nurturing life and bringing it forth to the world.

The Taino myths place the origin of human, of the sun and moon in caves. This belief has been reflected in their reverence to caves and in the rock art, as there have been efforts to visualize the creation story through petroglyphs (rock carving) and pictographs (rock painting).

Caves were also used by the Taino for burials and as shrines and sanctuaries wherein were placed 'images' that played a significant role in their lives.



## Petroglyph Sites

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|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Dryland,              | St. Mary      |
| 2. Pantrepant,           | Trelawny      |
| 3. Windsor,              | Trelawny      |
| 4. Mountain River ,      | St. Catherine |
| 5. Two Sister's Cave,    | St. Catherine |
| 6. Kempshot,             | St. James     |
| 7. Canoe Valley,         | Manchester    |
| 8. Cuckold Point,        | Manchester    |
| 9. Gut River,            | Manchester    |
| 10. Duff House,          | Manchester    |
| 11. Coventry,            | St. Ann       |
| 12. Chesterfield         | St. Ann       |
| 13. Walkerswood,         | St. Ann       |
| 14. God's Well,          | Clarendon     |
| 15. Jackson Bay Cave,    | Clarendon     |
| 16. Little Miller's Bay, | Clarendon     |
| 17. Milk River,          | Clarendon     |
| 18. Jackson Bay,         | Clarendon     |
| 19. Negril,              | Westmoreland  |
| 20. Red Bank,            | St. Elizabeth |
| 21. Reynold Bent,        | St. Elizabeth |
| 22. Warminster,          | St. Elizabeth |