

Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #55



Caves

LIMESTONE ROCK

SEDIMENTARY ROCK

Sedimentary rock is composed of calcium carbonate, fossils, minerals and other organic matter. The rock is susceptible to erosion by acidic rainwater and can form holes or caverns.

FUN FACT

Spelunking is a fun word to say! It is a term used to describe the exploration of caves. Some caves are quite large while others require you to squeeze through crevices or wiggle through on your belly.



WHY ARE CAVES SO DARK?

I took my sons to Mammoth Cave National Park in south-eastern Kentucky a few years ago. I had visited as a child, and I wanted to share my experience with my kids. We were excited to see the cave and learn about it.

Upon arrival, we were assigned a tour guide and instructed to stay on the path. Before entering the cave, we had to wash our shoes to prevent diseases from entering the cave that could harm threatened or endangered bats. Mammoth Cave is home to the Indiana bat, gray bat, and northern long-eared bat.

The cave temperature underground is a constant 54°F year-round, so we were glad to have brought our jackets. The cave would have been very dark without the lights that lined our path and reflected off the stalactites and stalagmites. These two cave structures are cone-like rock formations created by the drip of calcium-rich water. Stalactites stick "tight" to the ceiling, while stalagmites are on the floor where an insect or "mite" would be found.

Mammoth Cave is appropriately named because it has more than 400 miles of underground trails and huge cave rooms. We never had to bend over or crawl on our bellies as we navigated the one-mile trail. I hope you will one day spelunk in a cave like we did!

Psalms 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path". God's Word leads us like a light through a dark cave. God wants you to read His word, the Bible, and pray when you have questions. As you do, He will light your way ahead. He may not reveal the whole plan or path, but He will help you to trust Him with every step. He promises to lead you in places that seem as dark as an unlit cave.

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