

### **The Hidden World of Caves**

Caves, natural underground chambers, are found all over the world and have fascinated humans for generations. They are formed primarily by the erosion of rock, usually limestone, by water. Over time, as water seeps through cracks and dissolves the rock, vast chambers can be created.

Inside a cave, one might find unique ecosystems. Many caves are home to species that are not found anywhere else in the world. These creatures, often blind and pale due to the complete lack of sunlight, have adapted to the cold, dark, and often nutrient-poor environment. Examples include the blind cavefish and certain species of bats.

Caves have also played a significant role in human history. Ancient humans often used caves as shelter, and many prehistoric cave paintings have been discovered, offering insights into the lives and beliefs of early humans.

However, despite their intrigue, caves can be dangerous. They are often located in remote areas, can flood quickly, and their internal pathways can be confusing, leading to people becoming lost.

#### **Exercise: True/False/Not Given**

1. Caves are exclusively found in limestone areas.

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2. All creatures living in caves are blind.

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3. Ancient humans used caves primarily for artistic purposes.

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4. Caves can offer insights into prehistoric human beliefs.

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5. The primary danger of caves is their potential for flooding.

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