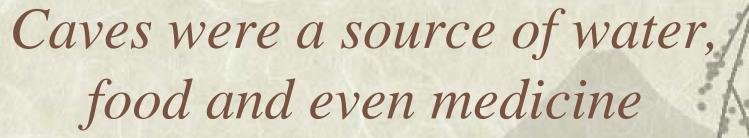
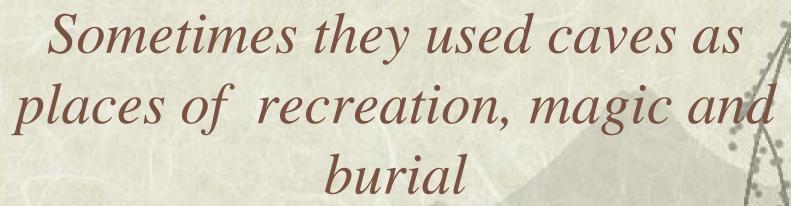


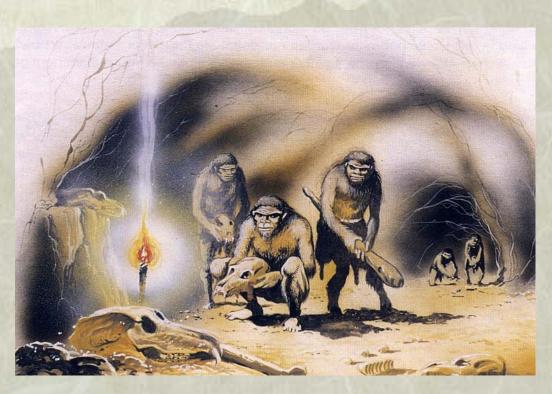


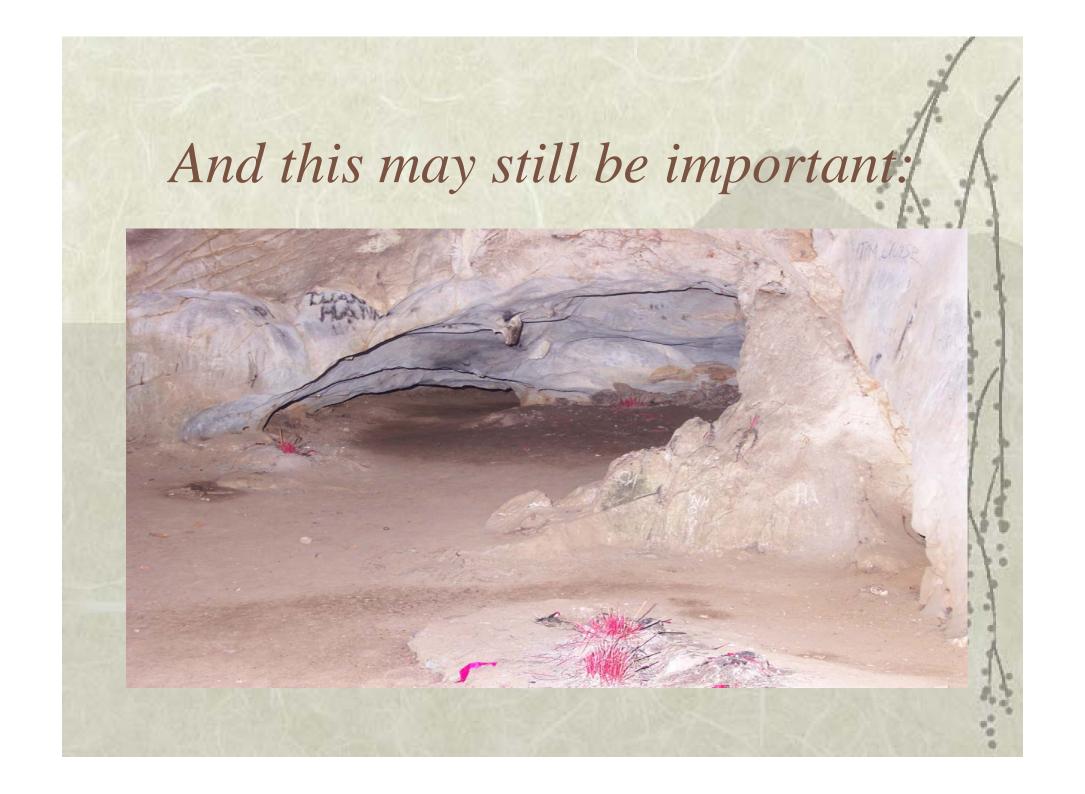
\* Both pre-human and the earliest human beings chose caves as a place of shelter and comfort





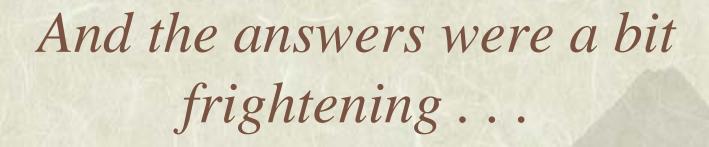






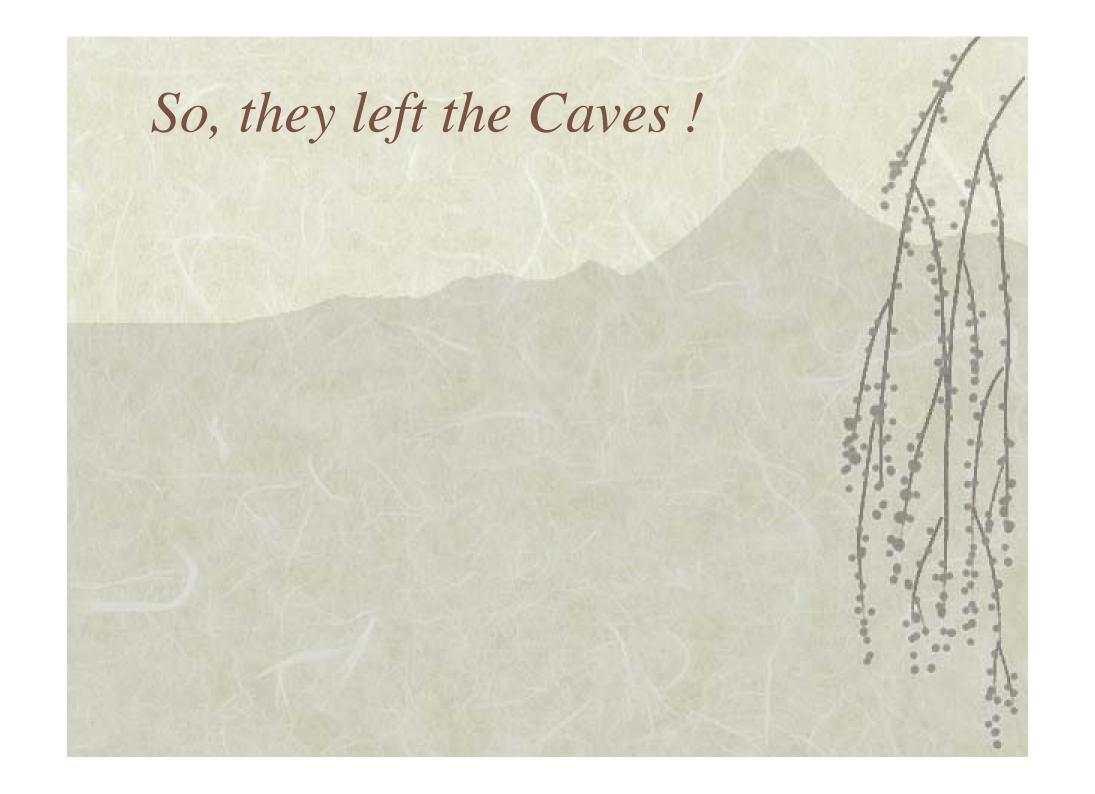
#### But then they left the caves . . .

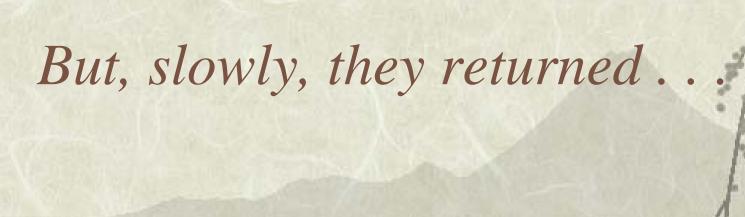
- \* As they evolved, so they became more inquiring
- \* They asked themselves, how why did these holes come to be?
- Or even, what happened to uncle when he went off into the dark?



\* Monsters (or dragons, or some other large creature)

\* Or, even worse, we just do not know!

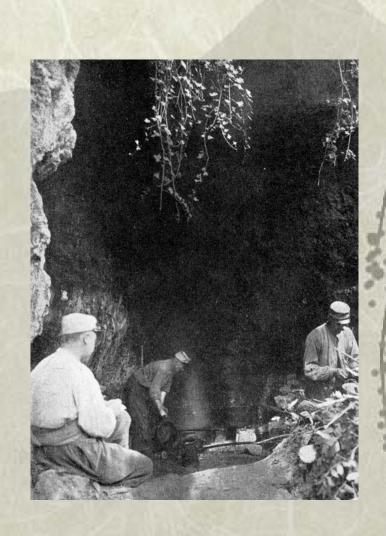




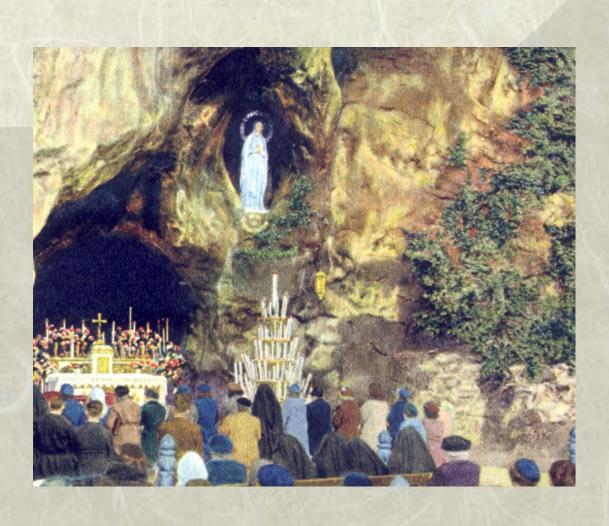
\* To collect useful things – like water and food

\* To inquire

To find shelter in adversity



## For magic and for worship



# And as they came into settlements, so they found . . .

Continuing shelter and magic, water and food

\* Fertiliser for their crops

❖ A place to make things – tools, food

# And even, a place to live:

### Continuing inquiry led them to ...

\* Beautiful and wondrous things

\* The evidence of their own past ancestry and heritage

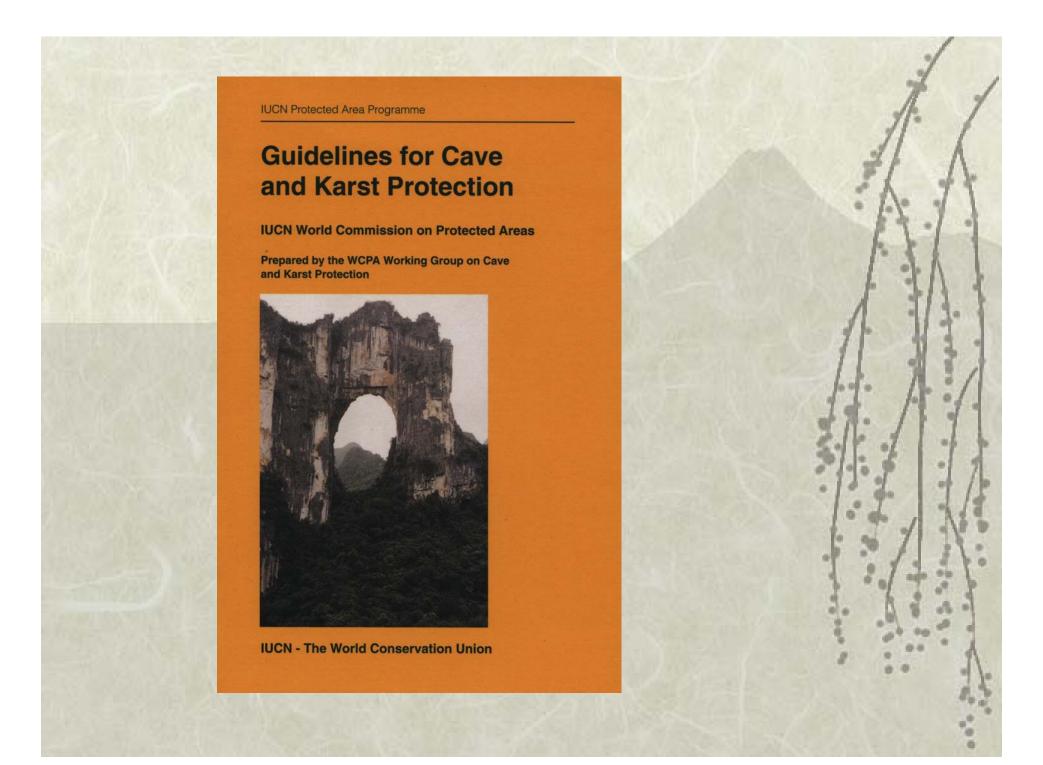
\* New understandings about water supply

# So Today, Caves are Important as places of . . .

- \* Practical use and economic value
- \* Beauty, Interest and even Worship
- \* Evidence about the nature of the world
- \* Water Supply

# But all these values can lead us to greed and destruction . . .

- \* Exploitation can lead to direct destruction
- \* Beauty can bring too many un-managed tourists and so it is destroyed
- \* Invaluable scientific evidence can be trampled underfoot or simply stolen
- \* Water can be polluted



#### So, We must . . .

- \* Protect caves from destruction by . .
  - Recognising that a cave is only a part of a much wider karst system and so.
  - Protecting the wider system, not just the cave.
  - Establishing protected areas.
  - Educating land managers.

## Control Impacts of People by.

- \* Establishing proper pathways and steps
  - Which minimise impacts on the cave
  - Which can be removed and leave no damage
- \* Providing "safe" lighting
  - Low heat output
  - No lampenflora



\* Limiting visitor numbers or distributing them in different ways

\* Making sure that they themselves learn more about cave protection

#### Protecting Water Quality by.

- \* Avoiding spillage of fuel or other chemicals
- \* Minimising soil, dust or other solids as sediment deposits
- Minimising the input of chemicals such as pesticides or fertilisers