

TITLE: Learning about Cave Life, Lesson 5

TOPIC: Cave Life

GRADE LEVEL: Middle

TIME REQUIRED: 45 minutes (combine 5 & 6 for 90 min block)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Teacher Text

Images from CD

Troglobite Activity

Internet access – print of page of cave animals at

http://interactive2.usgs.gov/learningweb/teachers/explore caves_animals.htm

DIRECTIONS FOR INSTRUCTION:

Refer to pages 17-18

1. Begin with students observing their speleothem activity. Allow them access to rulers and a magnifying glass. This will take a few minutes longer as the speleothems continue to grow.
2. Discussion on extremophiles from text. Good discussion with photos about Lechuquilla bacteria and the scientists who study it is at:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/caves/extremophiles.html>
3. Life in a cave – discussion, and show “Cave Life” images from the CD. Discussion should include evolution of species that live in caves, as well as bats, showing images from CD. Also may want to copy section from teacher text about Cave Life for students to have.
4. Do Troglobite Activity
5. Page showing some various kinds of cave life from the USGS is at:
http://interactive2.usgs.gov/learningweb/teachers/explore caves_animals.htm

Extremophiles – life forms, usually bacteria or algae, that live in extreme conditions, such as deep in arctic ice, in desert sands, within hot springs, or deep within a cave.