

**TITLE: The Importance of Caves, Lesson 6**

**TOPIC:** Cave Locations, Importance, and Conservation.

**GRADE LEVEL:** Middle

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

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

Speleothem activity – last day if possible

Explore Caves & Karst CD – printouts of pages below.

**DIRECTIONS FOR INSTRUCTION:**

Refer to pages 18-24

1. Begin with students observing their speleothem activity. Allow them access to rulers and a magnifying glass. This may be the last day of the activity; if so, do a wrap up and have them write conclusions and turn in their work. Otherwise, continue to observe for as many days as needed for speleothems to develop.
2. Where are caves? Show map from the CD, page 19. Ask students if they know where the nearest caves are to them.
3. Importance of caves. Ask for ideas from students about the importance of caves, and the dangers of exploring them. Discuss items in teacher text. Discuss problems with groundwater contamination, as well as sinkholes. Also, underwater caving is one of the most deadliest activities in the U.S., never to be taken lightly.
4. Conservation of caves. Show Cave Management Images from CD. Go over the Federal Cave Protection Act of 1988 (page 22) as well as other conservation policies such as that of the National Speleological Society.