

84: the yin & yang of caving

suggested answers

Term	Meaning
Example: eerie	spooky
1) stalagmites	a column rising from the floor of a cave (usually consisting of calcium carbonate) like an inverted stalactite
2) stalactites	columns that “hang tight” from the roofs of caves
3) speleologists	scientists who study caves
4) benign	harmless
5) vertical caving	caving that involves lots of climbing & descending, & requires ropes & other equipment
6) claustrophobic	scared of confined spaces
7) linear	in a straight line
8) geographically embarrassed	lost
9) coolth	coolness
10) troglodytes	cave-dwellers

teachers' notes

1) There are few activities scarier for many people than caving. It is an activity where the principle “challenge by choice” must apply. Students should be able to choose not to enter the cave, or to exit at any practical point once they have entered the cave. The aim of this worksheet is to inspire wonder about a world that exists without sunlight.

2). The author used to tell students that the purpose of caving (and half the fun) was to get wet and muddy.

3) A great resource (if you can get hold of it) is a 45 minute documentary made by Andrew & Liz White called *Nullabor dreaming*. It is about an amazing self-rescue at Cocklebidy Cave on the Pannikin Plain after a freak storm causes millions of litres of water to flow into the plug-hole entrance of the cave. (Go to: <http://www.1channel.ch/watch-527980-Nullabor-Dreaming>.) Make sure you show this doco AFTER you go caving!

4) The Mystery Creek disaster in Tasmania where a teacher and two students died in 1990 after a flash flood barred the exit of the cave makes a sad case study of risk management when planning caving trips. (Go to: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2005-12-03/heavy-rain-prompts-cave-erosion-warning/753808>.)

footprints answers

gallery



This is often the scariest part.



Vision becomes less reliable.



above: a good example of the way loose material between granite boulders has been washed away

right: a tight squeeze ... breathe in when you want to move!

