



Spelunker Speak

Cave Vocabulary

Materials: Vocabulary List • Crossword Puzzle • Pens and/or Pencils

Students should solve the crossword puzzle using words from the Cave Vocabulary list. These words can also be used for the bulletin board in Activity 1.

Answers:

Across

2. Calcite
4. Cave Coral
6. Karst
7. Speleothem
10. Shields
11. Stalagmite
12. Rimstone Dams
14. Stalactite

Down

1. Flowstone
2. Column
3. Drapery
5. Aragonite
8. Helictites
9. Soda Straws
13. Spelunker







Name _____

Spelunker Speak

Words every spelunker should know...

Aragonite	A cave mineral, which often forms needle-like crystals.
Calcite	A common crystalline form of calcium carbonate.
Cave coral	Also known as “popcorn”; small knobby clusters formed by seeping water.
Column	When a stalactite and a stalagmite grow together from the floor to the ceiling.
Drapery	A speleothem formed when water deposits calcite in thin sheets that hang in delicate folds.
Flowstone	Resembling frozen waterfalls, form when water flows down walls, over floors and older formations, building up sheets of calcite like icing on a cake.
Helicitites	Small twisted structures projecting from ceilings, walls and the floor of caves that seem to defy the laws of gravity. Formed by seeping water, they project at all angles.
Karst	An irregular limestone region with sinks, underground streams, and caverns.
Rimstone dams	Step-like terraces along streams and on cave floors that enclose pools of water.
Shields	Flat semi-circular calcite sheets formed by water seeping from a thin crack.
Soda straws	Thin hollow tubes that grow from the ceiling of caves as water runs down inside them and deposits rings of calcite at their tips.
Speleothem	Any mineral deposit or formation found in caves.
Spelunker	A person whose hobby is exploring caves.
Stalactite	An icicle-like deposit that grows down from the cave ceiling.
Stalagmite	Speleothems that grow up from the floor.



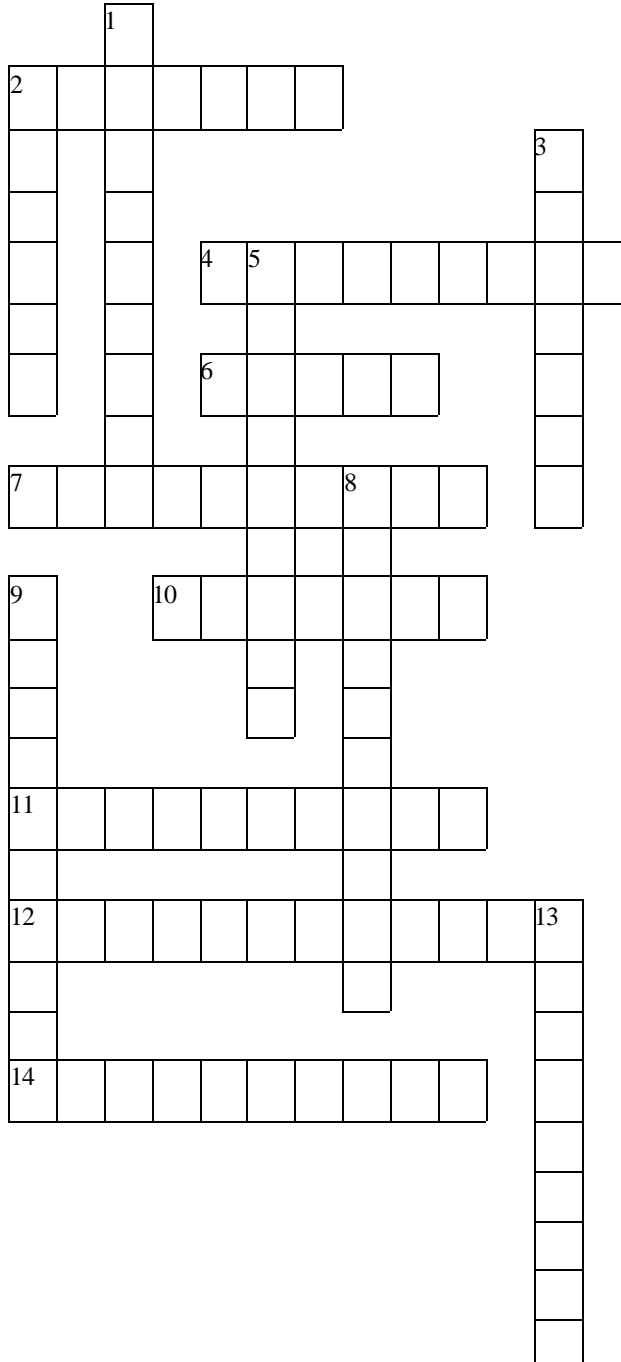


Name _____

Spelunker Speak

ACROSS

2. A common crystalline form of calcium carbonate.
4. Also known as “popcorn”; small knobby clusters formed by seeping water.



6. An irregular limestone region with sinks, underground streams and caverns.

7. Any mineral deposit or formation found in caves.

10. Flat semi-circular calcite sheets formed by water seeping from a thin crack.

11. Speleothems that grow up from the floor.

12. Step-like terraces along streams and on cave floors that enclose pools of water.

14. An icicle-like deposit that grows down from the cave ceiling.

DOWN

1. Resembling frozen waterfalls, form when water flows down walls, over floors and older formations building up sheets of calcite like icing on a cake.

2. When a stalactite and a stalagmite grow together from the floor to the ceiling.

3. A speleothem formed when water deposits calcite in thin sheets that hang in delicate folds.

5. A cave mineral that often forms needle-like crystals.

8. Small twisted structures projecting from ceilings, walls and the floor of caves that seem to defy the laws of gravity. Formed by seeping water, they project at all angles.

9. Thin hollow tubes that grow from the ceiling of caves as water runs down inside them and deposits rings of calcite at their tips.

13. A person whose hobby is exploring caves.

