



Cincinnati  
Museum  
Center

## Teacher's Pre- and Post-Program Visit Guide

<b>Program</b>	<b>Cave Dwellers</b>
<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>1 - 4</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>50 minutes</b>
<b>Takes Place</b>	<b>Museum of Natural History &amp; Science Classrooms and <i>The Cave</i></b>

### Program Objectives

- Students will learn that living things interact with their environment, and how their adaptations aid them in the specific cave environment.
- Students will know how caves form and be able to identify the cave zones and types of rock formations inside the cave.
- Students will be able to identify cave dwelling animals and categorize them as troglobites, troglaphiles or troglaxenes.

### Program Description

Caves are home to many animals. Deepen your appreciation of the delicate ecosystem of a cave and the role that people play in preserving the home of cave dwellers. This program includes a guided experience in the Museum of Natural History & Science's famous limestone cavern.

### Major Vocabulary and Concepts

adaptation	deep cave zone	dissolution
ecosystem	entrance	twilight zone
limestone	troglobites	troglophiles
trogloxenes		

### Suggested things to do in your classroom before the program

- Read the story Stellaluna with your class.
- Take turns blindfolding the students and have them find their way around the room using their senses of smell, touch and hearing in place of the sense of sight.
- Make your classroom as dark as possible and tell them a short story in the dark. This could help to prepare them for the dark areas in the cave they will visit.

### **Suggested things to do after the program**

- Create a classroom mural of a cave. Draw examples of cave creatures and locate them in the correct sections of the cave.
- Have students make a journal about their "caving adventures." Have them pretend to be spelunkers and write about their experiences including animals they meet on the way and rock formations they encounter. Students could also write poems, songs, or raps to record their experiences.
- Have the students "make" a small cave using an old tarp or sheets. They can give tours to another class of younger students and tell them about what they saw in the cave when they visited.
- Look at pictures of famous caves around the world. Locate and mark them on a map.

### **Curriculum and Standards Addressed**

Ohio - Earth and Space Science, Life Sciences, Scientific Inquiry,  
Scientific Ways of Knowing

Kentucky - Earth and Space Science, Life Science, Scientific Inquiry,  
Applications & Connections

Indiana - The Physical Setting, The Living Environment, The Nature of  
Science & Technology, Scientific Thinking, Common Themes,  
Historical Perspectives

### **Related Exhibits and Features**

- *The Cave* in the Museum of Natural History & Science
- Omnimax® film: *Amazing Caves*

### **Resources**

Teachers: Speleology - The Study of Caves by George W. Moore and  
Nicholas Sullivan

Caves by Neil Morris

Caves and Caverns by Gail Gibbons

The Life of The Cave - Our Living World of Nature by Charles  
E. Mohr & Thomas L. Poulson

Students: Stellaluna by Janell Cannon

Bats: Creatures of the Night by Joyce Milton

Cave by Donald M. Silver and Patricia Wynne

I Wonder Why Stalactites Hang Down & Other Questions  
About Caves by Jackie Gaff