

Fill in the blanks with the words given.

helmet	why	decorations	protect	equipment
them	has	whether	which	careless

### Meet a caver

Stephen Alvarez is a caver. He travels the world exploring and photographing caves. He (1)\_\_\_\_\_ to climb mountains to reach some caves or dive deep down to search for underwater caves. He has photographed some very impressive caves including the longest in the world, Mammoth Cave in the USA, (2 )\_\_\_\_\_ has 580 kilometers of tunnels.

### Underground danger

People sometimes ask Alvarez ( 3 ) \_\_\_\_\_ caving is dangerous. It is. 'Caves are dangerous if you don't know what you're doing,' he says. Staying safe is important. Alvarez goes into caves with other cavers, never by himself. That way, team members can look out for each other. Cavers carry the right ( 4 )\_\_\_\_\_ for all situations. Knee pads and gloves are important, and they must wear a (5)\_\_\_\_\_ to protect the head. Most cavers use headlamps to provide light. This leaves their hands free to climb and crawl. They also carry extra torches and they know how to use ropes.

### Decorations

There are fantastic shapes to see in caves. These shapes are called decorations and they form when rainwater drips onto stone. Examples of these are stalactites, which hang down from a cave ceiling, and stalagmites, which grow upwards from the cave floor. But Alvarez says there are many ( 6 ) \_\_\_\_\_, including some that look like popcorn and some that look like a nest of eggs.

### CAVE CREATURES

Beautiful cave decorations are not all that you'll see in caves. Animals live in caves, too. Many of \_\_\_\_\_ ( 7 ) are eyeless. They don't need eyes because there is no light in the cave. Alvarez has seen fish and spiders without eyes. Because they can't see, these creatures can hear, touch or smell very well. They can move around and they know what's nearby. They can capture their food without ever seeing the victim!

## CAVE THREATS

Explorers like Alvarez know how important it is to ( 8 ) \_\_\_\_\_ caves. Pollution is one threat. Polluted water from farms or businesses can flow into caves, destroying decorations and killing animals. Human visitors can also be a threat. A ( 9 ) \_\_\_\_\_ caver can destroy in minutes what took thousands of years to form. That's \_\_\_\_\_ (10) responsible cavers say, 'Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints. Kill nothing but time!'

F. Find these words in the text and use them to complete the definitions below.

capture      crawl      destroy      explore      flow      surround

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ means to be all around something or someone.
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ means to damage something completely.
3. To \_\_\_\_\_ means to catch someone or something.
4. To \_\_\_\_\_ means to travel around an area to learn about it.
5. To \_\_\_\_\_ means to move slowly along the ground on hands and knees.
6. To \_\_\_\_\_ means to move easily in one direction