
Rock and Hole

Caves are natural underground holes big enough to hold a person. Caverns are the largest caves. They were hollowed out of limestone and other soft rocks by acid water. Limestone rock has lots of cracks. Falling drops of rain picked up carbon dioxide from the air and the soil, turning the rainwater into a weak acid. The acid water trickled down through the cracks in the limestone rock. Slowly, the cracks got wider. Paths were formed between layers of stone. The paths turned into tunnels. The tunnels ran together and grew into rooms over millions of years. Limestone caverns are the caves most likely to have formations such as stalactites and stalagmites. Lava tubes are caves created after a volcano erupts. Hot lava on the surface cools and hardens, making a roof. Lava under the ground flows away, leaving an empty tube. Sea caves are formed from ocean waves constantly moving over sea cliffs and eroding the rock. Glacier caves are made when melting ice flows through water within a glacier. Scientists who study caves and their environments are called speleologists. People who like to explore caves are called spelunkers.

1) What happens after acid water flows over cracks in limestone rock?

- A) The rock gets wet.
- B) The acid rain gets stronger.
- C) A stalactite is formed.
- D) The cracks get wider.

2) The reader can infer that seeing formations inside a cave most likely means the cave was formed ---

- A) from acid water trickling over limestone rock
- B) after the eruption of a volcano
- C) by waves along the coast
- D) inside a glacier

3) Context clues and the suffix -ly help a reader know that *constantly* means ---

- A) in a continuous way
- B) in a way that not consistent
- C) temporarily
- D) without force

4) If you spend several hours examining the inside and outside of a cave, you can call yourself a ---

- A) speleologist
- B) spelunker
- C) stalactite
- D) stalagmite

Takes on Lakes

Lakes can be big or small. A lake is a fairly large body of water that fills up a hole in the ground. The water inside a lake can be fresh or contain salt. The difference between a lake and a stream or river is that water moves very slowly or not at all in a lake. Lakes are made in many different ways. They might be carved out of the ground by a moving sheet of ice. The movement of the Earth's crust both up and down can leave behind big bowls in the land. Volcanoes or meteorites create craters that fill up with water. Strong winds push sand around and block the flowing water in a river. Even animals can create artificial lakes. Lakes can also become extinct. A lake dies when its water has evaporated due to drought. A lake might vanish after filling up with soil. Or perhaps the river feeding the lake becomes blocked. Lakes with too much plant life slowly turn into marshes. An artificial lake created by a beaver might last for only a few days. Many lakes are so polluted that they are almost dead. Many scientists who study geology say that lakes have the shortest lives out of all of Earth's landforms.

1) One way a lake is different from a river is that the water in a lake ---

- A) hardly or never moves
- B) is always fresh
- C) moves much faster than a river
- D) takes up much less space

2) As it is used in the text, the word *bowl*s means ---

- A) round dishes
- B) decorative prizes
- C) sporting events
- D) deep holes

3) This paragraph is mostly about ---

- A) lakes around the world
- B) how lakes are different from rivers
- C) ways lakes are made or destroyed
- D) how animals create artificial lakes

4) Based on information in the text, the reader can conclude that a lake with too many plants ---

- A) last only for a few days
- B) becomes polluted more quickly
- C) attracts the most wildlife
- D) slowly becomes another type of landform