# **Founded by Betty Debnam**

# **Cavers Go Deep Into** the Earth



**Mini Fact: Explorers** divide up the zones of a cave entrance, twilight and dark zones based on the amount of

This caver prepares

to climb into Spider

Cave at Carlsbad

Caverns National

Last week, we learned about how caves are formed and what types of formations and animals are found inside them.

This week, let's go exploring ourselves. A speleologist (spee-lee-AHL-uh-jist) is a scientist who studies caves. They can be experts in different things about caves. For instance, some are geologists. They study how caves are formed. Some are biologists. They study plants and animals that live in caves.

Others explore and map caves as their hobby. They are called spelunkers (spee-LUNK-ers), or cavers.

# Human exploration

Of course, the first cave explorers were ancient people. Go back some 30,000 years and you will find people were exploring caves.

Back then, people sought shelter in caves from the cold, rain and snow. To light their way, they carried torches or stone lamps. They burned animal fat for fuel.

One famous cave scientist was a man named Edouard-Alfred Martel. He lived in France from 1859 to 1938. As a little boy, Martel loved caves.

He worked hard to measure caves and took careful notes about what

he found in them. He also developed special ways of using ropes and safety equipment to make cave exploring safer.

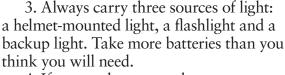
light in each. Martel explored thousands of caves in his lifetime and started the first international society to study them. He is remembered today as the father of speleology.

# Safe exploring

Caves can be dangerous places. You can get lost in the dark. Rocks or boulders could fall on you. If you go into a cave, follow these basic rules.

1. Never explore caves alone. Go with at least two other companions. Kids should go only with an adult.

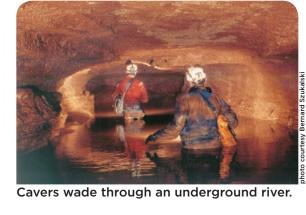
2. Tell other people where you are going and when you will return.



4. If you get lost, stay where you are until help arrives.

5. Don't touch cave formations. It takes hundreds of years for a stalactite to form. If you break one, you have damaged the cave for

Cave explorers have a motto: "Take only pictures, leave only carefully placed footsteps, kill nothing but time."



### Two cool caves

Carlsbad Caverns National Park in the Guadalupe Mountains in New Mexico

Special features:

- the Big Room, one of the largest cave chambers in the world. It could hold six football fields.
- some of the world's largest stalactites and stalagmites.
- Mexican bats. Hundreds of thousands of bats, which summer in the cave, fly out at sunset to hunt for food.
  - wall paintings by American Indians.

### Mammoth Cave near Cave City, Kentucky

Special features:

- several rivers, lakes and waterfalls.
- spectacular stalactites and stalagmites.
- blind fish and crayfish that live in the rivers.

# Resources



## On the Web:

• bit.ly/MPcavetour

### At the library:

 "Caves: An Explorer Travel Guide" by Anna Claybourne

# Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of spelunking are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

**Edouard-Alfred** 

Martel

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CARLSBAD, CAVER, FORMATIONS, HOBBY, LIGHT, MAMMOTH, MARTEL, RIVER, SAFE, SCIENTIST, SPELEOLOGIST. SPELUNKER, TWILIGHT.

GCLIGHTNEMPIUQE COMPANION, ENTRANCE, A F O R M A T I O N S Z M X A EQUIPMENT, EXPLORE, HOWTSITNEICSDM EDABSLRACREVI XHLMREKNULEP PΕ LEOLOGI LEMARTELHT OMMAM OVTHGILIWT YBBOH RACOMPANIONDBHP ECSE IECNARTNEQA

# Cook's Corner

# **Easy Ice Cream Topping**

# You'll need:

- 1/2 cup crunchy hazelnut spread (Nutella or another brand)
- 1/3 cup apricot preserves
- 4 to 6 servings vanilla ice cream

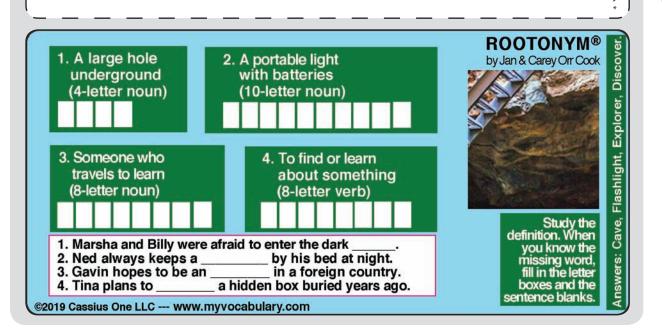
# What to do:

- 1. Combine hazelnut spread and preserves in a medium bowl.
- 2. Microwave on high for 60 seconds. Stir to mix thoroughly.
- 3. Spoon over vanilla ice cream. Serves 4 to 6.



an adult's

need



# **Mini Jokes**

Sam: What illness did the chimney get? Sarah: The flue!

LCU NULE

Rocks may seem fixed, but they are slowly changing all the time. This process is called the rock cycle. Surface rocks are worn away by ice, wind and water to form sediment. This is then compressed on the sea floor to form **sedimentary rock**. At the same time, molten rock erupts through the Earth's crust onto the surface, forming **igneous rocks**, while heat and pressure create **metamorphic rocks** underground.

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# For later:

Look through your newspaper for articles about exploring the natural world, including caves, the oceans or space.

**Teachers:** For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!

