

CYCLOPAEDIA 34 – CAVES

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OVERVIEW

Caverns. Sinkholes. Karst regions.
Underground rivers. Subterranean worlds.
Caves. What do you think of when you hear those terms? Spelunking? Mining? Absolute Darkness? Rock passages? Cold? Stalactites? Stalagmites? Bats? Blind Fish? Insects? Guano?

Caves fascinate and scare us. They are a world unlike our sunlit land we live in. From shallow caves used for paintings and dwellings, to massive tunnels delving deep below the surface of the earth, writers, scientists, and explorers are drawn to these subterranean worlds.

Horror and myth tell of unspeakable monsters and evil civilizations that live in the deep dark below. Speleology, speleogenesis, speleomorphology, and speleofauna ponder the creation and life of caves, studying the unique and wonderous animals, plants, fungi, and geology like nothing seen upon the surface. Spelunkers yearn to go deeper and further, to find what is around that next rock formation. Cave divers dare to explore both caves and the depths of subterranean rivers and lakes. Authors ponder what life and civilizations would be like in sunless, silent worlds.

Whether you are interested in bats, rare crystals, dwarven cities, goblin lairs, or a trail to the center of the earth, caves provide so much to explore and learn. Have you had a chance to visit a cave? The experience will alter your perception and appreciation of the sunlit lands we live in.

Can you mentally stand up to the absolute darkness and uneasy quiet punctuated by the faint drips of water for long?

TYPES OF CAVES

Caves are categorized based on their formation, with Solutional Caves being the most common. The other types are:

- Anchialine Cave
- Corrasional or Erosional Cave
- Fracture Cave
- Glacier Cave
- Littoral or Sea Cave
- Primary Cave
- Talus Cave

Following are sources of information pertaining to Caves to assist prospective game masters, game designers, writers, and storytellers in knowing where to start their research.

ARTICLES

The little known impact of bats and bat guano in the late stages of cave morphology

By Philippe, Audra

Source: Milestones and challenges in karstology Str. 14

National Speleological Society

<http://caves.org/>

BOOKS

Adventure is Underground

By Halliday, William

Beneath the Mountains

By Rose, David and Gregson, Richard

Beyond Mammoth Cave: A Tale of Obsession in the World's Longest Cave

By Borden, James D.

Beyond the Deep: The Deadly Descent into the World's Most Treacherous Cave

By Stone, William

The Biology of Caves and Other Subterranean Habitats

By Culver, David C.

Blind Descent: The Quest to Discover the Deepest Cave on Earth

By Tabor, James M.

Cave Biology: Life in Darkness

By Romero, Aldemaro

Cave Geology

By Palmer, Art

Cave Minerals of the World

By Hill, Carol A.

Cave: Nature and Culture (Earth)

By Crane, Ralph and Fletcher, Lisa

Caverns Measureless to Man

By Exley, Sheck

Caves: Exploring Hidden Realms

By Taylor, Michael Ray

Caving: The Sierra Club Guide to Spelunking

By Larson, Peggy

The City of Ember

By DuPrau, Jeanne

Dark Elf Trilogy (Homeland/Exile/Sojourn)

By Salvatore, R.A.

The Darkness Beckons: The History and Development of Cave Diving

By Farr, Martyn and Stone, Bill

Depths of the Earth

By Halliday, William

Encyclopedia of Caves

By Culver, David C.

Entering the Stone: On Caves and Feeling Through the Dark

By Hurd, Barbara

Escape the Underdark: An Endless Quest Book

By Forbeck, Matt

Great Caves of the World

By Waltham, Tony

The Jewel Cave Adventure

By Conn, Herb and Jan

Journey to the Center of the Earth

By Verge, Jules

Les Abimes

By Martel, Édouard-Alfred

The Longest Cave

By Brucker, Roger W.

The Magic School Bus in the Bat Cave

By Lane, Jeanette

The Mines of Moria (Middle Earth Quest, No. 3)

By Mathews, Susan

The Oldest Enigma of Humanity: The Key to the Mystery of the Paleolithic Cave Paintings

By Bertrand, David

Spelology Caves and the Cave Environment

By Moore, George W.

Subterranean Climbers

By Chevalier, Pierre

Ten Years Under the Earth

By Casteret, Norbert

Underwater Potholer: A Cave Diver's Memoirs

By Price, Duncan M.

Underground Worlds (Planet earth)

By Jackson, Donald Dale

Underground Worlds: A Guide to Spectacular Subterranean Places

By Farley, David

Vampire Bats, Giant Insects, and Other Mysterious Animals of the Darkest Caves

By Rodriguez, Ana Maria

GAMES

A0-4: Against the Slave Lords - RPG

A1-4: Scrouge of the Slave Lords - RPG

Above & Below - Tabletop Game

Catacombs: Cavern of Soloth - Tabletop Game

The Cave - Tabletop Game

The Cave - Video Game

Caverna: The Cave Farmers - Tabletop Game

Colossal Cave - Video Game

Colossal Cave: The Board Game - Tabletop Game

Dig Dug - Video Game

Drizzt Do'Urden's Guide to the Underdark - RPG

Drow of the Underdark - RPG

Dungeoneer's Survival Guide - RPG

Menzoberranzan: City of Intrigue - RPG

Menzoberranzan The Famed City of the Drow - RPG

Moria - RPG

Moria: The Dwarven City - RPG

Ruins of Undermountain - RPG

Small World Underground - Tabletop Game

Spelunker - Video Game

Underdark - RPG

Undermountain - RPG

Vast: The Crystal Caverns - Tabletop Game

CINEMA

Ace in the Hole

As Above, So Below

BBC The Secret Life of Caves

BBC Caves

Catacombs

The Cave

Cave of Forgotten Dreams

The City of Ember

The Descent

Journey Into Amazing Caves

Journey to the Center of the Earth

L'Abisso

Mysterious Life of Caves - NOVA

Mysteries Underground

Sanctum
What Waits Below

LOCATIONS

Batu Caves, Malaysia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batu_Caves

Cave of Crystals/Naica Mine, Mexico
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cave_of_the_Crystals

Derinkuyu, Cappadocia
http://www.cappadociaturkey.net/derinkuyu_underground_city.htm

Eisriesenwelt Cave, Austria
<https://www.eisriesenwelt.at/en/>

Great Blue Hole, Belize
<https://www.belize.com/belize-blue-hole/>

Mammoth Cave, USA
<https://www.nps.gov/mac/index.htm>

Orda Cave, Russia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orda_Cave

Pindaya Caves, Myanmar
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pindaya_Caves

Puerto Princesa Underground River, Mexico
<https://ppur.com.ph/>

Reed Flute Cave, China
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reed_Flute_Cave

Sistema Ox Bel Ha
<https://www.gue.com/ox-bel-ha-charismatic-mexican-giant>

Škocjan Caves, Slovenija
<http://www.park-skocjanske-jame.si/en/read/the-skocjan-caves/explore-the-caves>

Soon Doong Cave, Vietnam
<http://www.sondoongcave.org/>

Tham Lod Cave, Thailand
<https://mychiangmaitour.com/tham-lod-cave/>

Waitomo Glowworm Caves, New Zealand
<http://www.waitomo.com/Waitomo-Glowworm-Caves/Pages/default.aspx>

PEOPLE

Norbert Casteret
Pierre Chevalier
Floyd Collins
Bill Cuddington
Bruno Dressler
Robert de Joly
Guy de Lavour
Édouard-Alfred Martel
Charles Petit-Didier
Fernand Petzl
Othniel C. Marsh
Henry Fairfield Osborn
Richard Owen
Paul Sereno
Patricia Vickers-Rich
Dong Zhiming