

dissolution

when water dissolves the minerals that make up rock over time, it leaves behind small pockets and voids

stalactites

a mineral deposit hanging from a cave, formed by mineral-rich water on the cave's ceiling (Hold on tight!)

stalagmites

a mineral deposit that rises from the floor of a cave, formed by mineral-rich water accumulating on the cave's floor (Try to reach high with all your might!)

speleology

the scientific study of caves

cave system

a network of interconnected caves and passageways that may span many miles or kilometers

subterranean

something that is underground or below the surface of the earth

helictite

a cave formation that grows in twisted or curved shapes, sometimes called a “clump of worms”

cavern

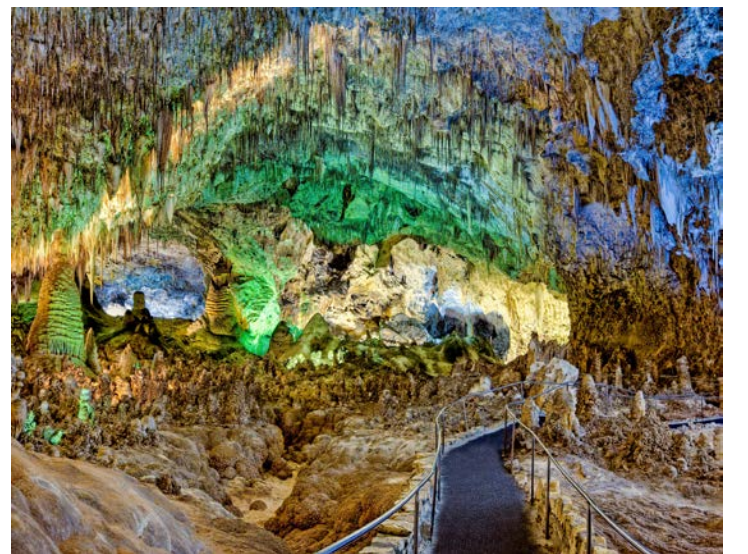
a large underground chamber

calcite

a mineral that is often found in caves, it is found in limestone and some other rocks

sump

a low point in a cave system where water collects, it often creates a barrier for cave explorers



sump
calcite
helictite

stalactite
stalagmite
cavern

Name: _____

Cave Vocabulary

Without looking up the words, can you match the words with the definitions?
What clues helped you?

	meaning	clue
speleology		
calcite		
stalactites		
stalagmites		
helictite		
subterranean		
dissolution		
cave system		
cavern		
sump		