

# Student Copy



NPS Photo by Rick Wood

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# CAVE LIFE

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Cave animals fit into three categories: **trogloxenes**, **troglophiles**, and **troglobites**. These categories are based on the amount of time cave animals spend in caves. Are they just visitors? Can they survive outside the cave environment? And what do you call the places in a cave where these animals live?

During this activity you will learn the differences between the 3 categories of cave life, and become familiar with the 4 cave life zones. You will work cooperatively with your group members to learn the material and answer the questions below.

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## The 4 Life Zones of Cave

- **1<sup>st</sup> Zone** = \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. This life zone supports what kind of organisms?
  - b. What are 3 examples of organisms that are found here?
  
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Zone** = \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Where does this zone start and extend to?
  - b. What are 3 examples of organisms that are found here?
  
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Zone** = \_\_\_\_\_
  
- **4<sup>th</sup> Zone** = \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. What characterizes this zone?
  - b. Describe what organisms in this zone must have in order to survive?

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## Trogloxenes

- 1.) What are the Greek words that “trogloxene” came from and what do the words mean?
- 2.) What are 3 possible reasons for these animals to spend their time in caves?
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- 3.) What are 3 examples of troglloxenes:
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- 4.) What are the special adaptations these organisms have that help them survive in caves?

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## Troglophiles

- 1.) What are the Greek words that “troglophile” came from and what do the words mean?
- 2.) How can trogllophiles live outside of a cave?
- 3.) Why do you think a trogllophile would venture outside of the cave?
- 4.) What are 3 examples of trogllophiles:
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- 5.) If an animal of a particular species is a trogllophile, do all the other animals of the same species also have to be one? Explain.

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## Troglobites

- 1.) What are the Greek words that “troglobite” came from and what do the words mean?
- 2.) Where are troglobites found?
- 3.) Describe how the physical adaptations of these organisms are devoted to sustaining energy.
- 4.) What are 2 features that these organisms do not have that are adaptations to the lack of sunlight?
- 5.) From which cave animal group have troglobites evolved?

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### As a group:

Cave animals have developed different adaptations depending on where, and how long, they live in caves. **Give a brief explanation of another group of animals that have developed adaptations specific to where they live.**