



KARTCHNER CAVERNS

Discover the magic of the environment in a living cave. You will learn more about the formations in a cave and the animals and insects living inside. Note: This activity may be completed without going to Kartchner Caverns State Park.

ACTIVITIES

- » **Girl Scout Brownies** – complete the starred (★) activities
- » **Girl Scout Juniors** – complete the starred (★) activities + 4 additional activities
- » **Girl Scout Cadettes** – complete 7 activities
- » **Girl Scout Seniors** – complete 7 activities

- 1.★ Locate Kartchner Caverns on a map of Arizona. What roads could you take to get there? How long would it take to drive there from your town?
- 2.★ Who discovered Kartchner Caverns and when? How and when did it become a state park? How did Kartchner Caverns get its name?
- 3.★ How old do scientists think Kartchner Caverns is and how was it formed?
4. What makes Kartchner unique among caves?
5. What types of animals live or did live in Kartchner Caverns? Why do you think they have chosen this environment as their home? Draw the food web of the cave environment, beginning with the sun as the energy source.
6. Kartchner Caverns is a wet 'live' cave where the environment is still living and changing, unlike Arizona's Colossal Cave which is a 'dry' cave. The formations are extremely fragile and protected by law. Learn more about some of the cave formations inside Kartchner Caverns. Design a short presentation about these formations for your troop.
7. How can the outside environment affect the environment inside the cavern? Find out how the workers at the park monitor the moisture inside the cave. Where does the water come from? How does the park staff protect the cave environment?
8. Kartchner Caverns provides a safe home for one to two thousand bats that roost in the caverns from late April to mid-September. Find out the important role these bats play in the ecosystem of the caverns.
9. Tunnels had to be created in order to allow safe and easy access. Find out how the network of tunnels was created and what things the crews had to consider during this process.



10. Exploring caves requires special equipment and skills. Find out more about cave exploration and what kinds of equipment and skilled cavers need.
11. Take a trip with your troop or family to Kartchner Caverns and observe the technology used to monitor moisture and temperature levels inside the cave.
12. Cave exploration and preservation utilizes many fields of study. What types of careers are involved with cave exploration and preservation? What level of education and/or experience do you need to have for these careers?
13. Develop a way to educate younger girls about the importance of bats in our environment (i.e. coloring book, skit, song, etc.).
14. Give a presentation explaining why it is important to preserve Kartchner Caverns and how the humans could impact the environment inside the cave. Use visuals to help younger girls understand how their actions can negatively impact the cave environment.

For more activities, contact the Arizona State Parks office.