

My Favorite Thing at Westcave was:

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Visit Westcave again with Family and Friends!

Make a reservation at [www.westcave.org](http://www.westcave.org)

Westcave is open to the public for guided tours to the grotto area, and self-guided hiking on our Uplands. The guided grotto hike takes visitors from an arid savannah through a limestone crevice into a sheltered canyon of lush plant life! At the head of the canyon stands

Westcave, with a stunning 40-foot waterfall replenishing the emerald pool below. Each tour is 1.5 hours of hiking, learning, and fun on a 1 mile loop trail.

*Additional Activities and Resources at:*

[westcave.org/resources/teacher-resources](http://westcave.org/resources/teacher-resources)

24814 Hamilton Pool Rd

Round Mountain, TX 78663

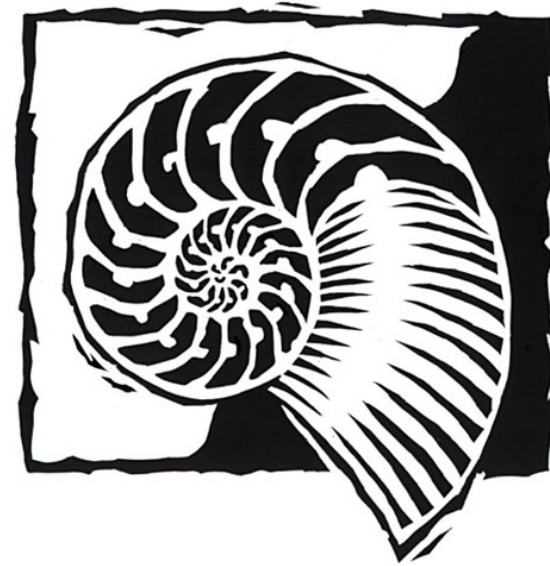
(830) 825-3442

[info@westcave.org](mailto:info@westcave.org)



**WESTCAVE**  
OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER

# Westcave Preserve



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Explorer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."*

~Chief Seattle, Duwamish

# Scavenger Hunt

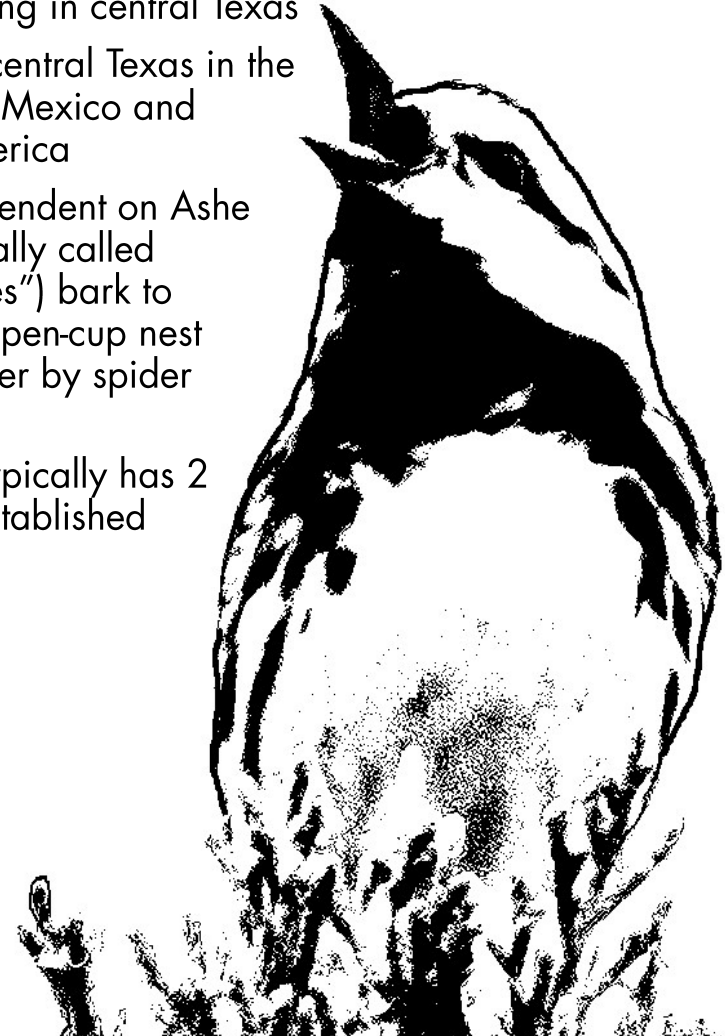
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquifer          | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Plant                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bald Cypress     | <input type="checkbox"/> Nest                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ball Moss        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pedernales River                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird             | <input type="checkbox"/> Poison Ivy                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cactus           | <input type="checkbox"/> Reptile                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decomposition    | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Woodland                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erosion          | <input type="checkbox"/> Ashe Juniper/<br>Live Oak Savannah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish             | <input type="checkbox"/> Scat                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flint            | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiderweb                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flower           | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fossil           | <input type="checkbox"/> Stalactite                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Galls            | <input type="checkbox"/> Stalagmite                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Travertine                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lichen           | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Track                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limestone        | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Animal    | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____            |   |

# Golden-cheeked Warbler

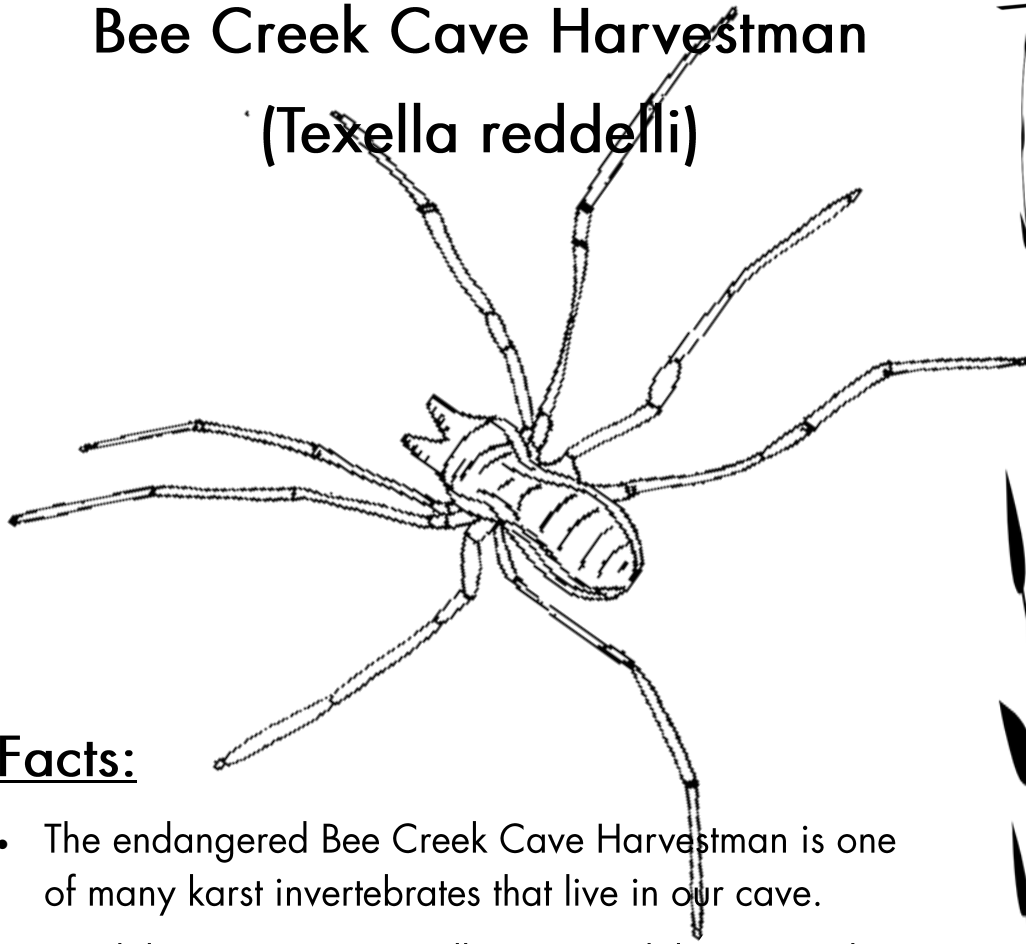
*(Dendroica chrysoparia)*

## Facts:

- Listed as an endangered species in May of 1990
- Eat insects and spiders
- Are native Texans. They raise all their young in central Texas
- Migrate to central Texas in the spring from Mexico and Central America
- Entirely dependent on Ashe Juniper (locally called "Cedar Trees") bark to build their open-cup nest held together by spider webs.
- Westcave typically has 2 territories established each year.



# Bee Creek Cave Harvestman (*Texella reddelli*)



## Facts:

- The endangered Bee Creek Cave Harvestman is one of many karst invertebrates that live in our cave.
- Troglobites = "Cave Dwellers," spend their entire lives inside of caves, with long appendages, translucent coloration, and lack of eyes adaptations.
- A harvestman is not a spider.
  - Spiders = two distinct body segments
  - Harvestmen = fused body or one segment.
- There are currently 6 endangered Karst invertebrates in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve.

## Let your imagination run wild!

Reflect on your visit at Westcave and draw, write, or sketch your observations or experience below:

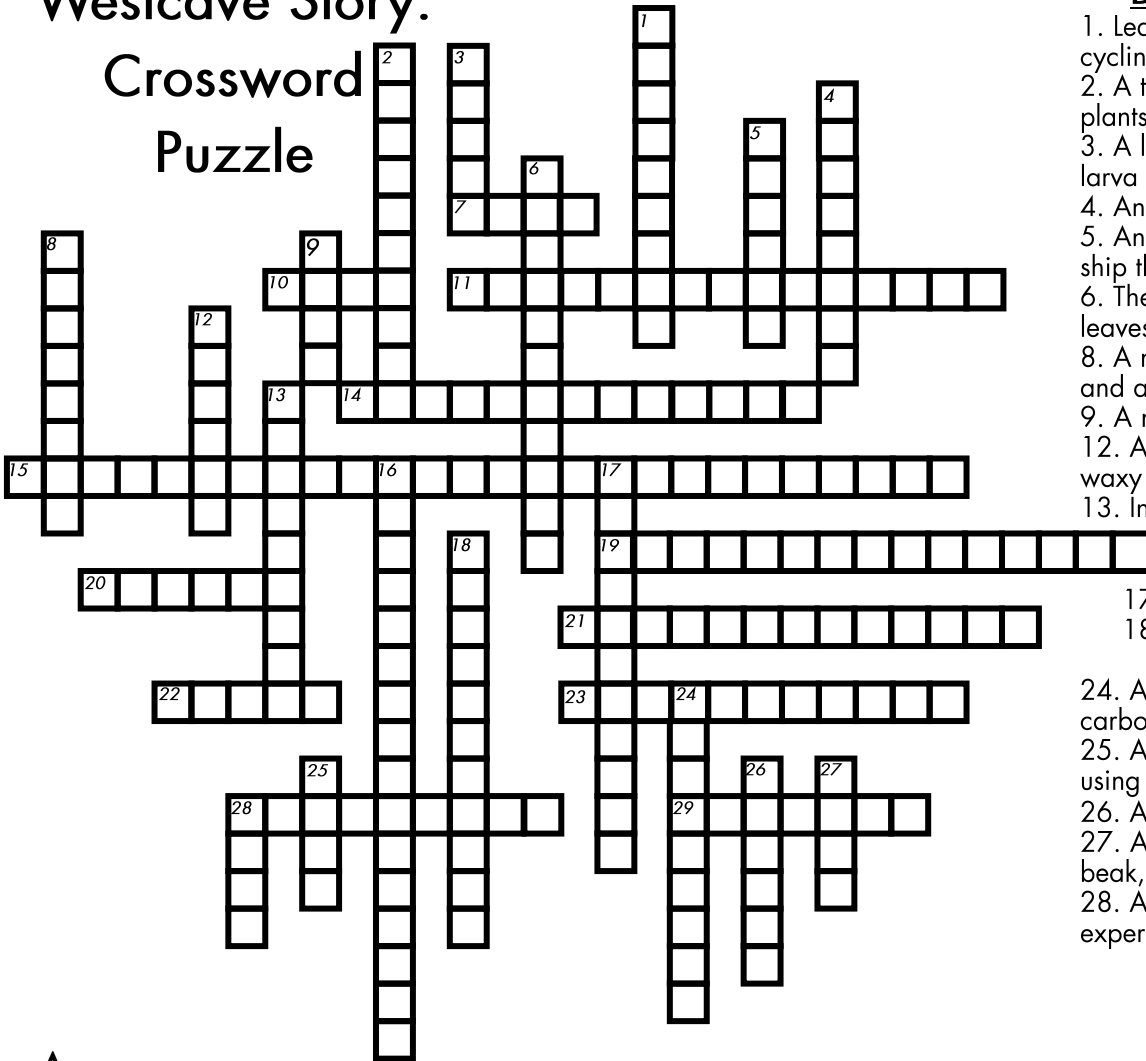
How can you stand up for the Earth?

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# Westcave Story:

## Crossword Puzzle



### Across

7. The scientific name for animal poop.
10. A structure to raise young, often made by birds to raise their chicks.
11. The river visible from the overlook. It has been shaped over the last 250,000 years by the power of water and flooding.
14. The breaking down of plants, animals, and other organic substances into small pieces of organic matter.
15. The first habitat we walked through at Westcave that was a grassland with two main types of trees.
19. A living organism that is not native to an ecosystem, causing harm to the environment and its inhabitants.
20. A showy part of a plant that attracts animals to pollinate it, producing seeds.
21. A living organism that naturally originated and lives in an particular area and ecosystem in self-sustaining populations without human intervention.
22. A reptile that slithers around on the ground using its long, slender body.
23. A type of cave formation made up of calcium carbonate that grows on the floor .
28. A plant you should avoid with three leaves that can give you a rash .
29. The process of removing material (soil, rocks, sediments) from one location and moving it to another location, which can be done by natural process like water, wind, ice, or gravity.

### Down

1. Leaving behind trash anywhere on purpose, instead of throwing it away or recycling it.
2. A type of limestone deposited by mineral springs that has other organisms, like plants, growing on the surface.
3. A large round growth found on trees that serves as a home to the larva of a tiny wasp. This wasp stung the tree to insert its larva.
4. An area of land managed to protect its flora, fauna, and natural resources.
5. An organism of algae/cyanobacteria and fungi living in a symbiotic relationship that can be found growing on our trees.
6. The tallest tree in the canyon, it is deciduous, meaning it loses its needle-like leaves every fall.
8. A native epiphyte, a plant that lives in air, surviving by resting on tree branches and absorbing water and nutrients from the atmosphere.
9. A non-flowering plant found in the canyon that requires a moist habitat.
12. A dry area/desert adapted plant with fleshy stems and a waxy coating that prevents water loss. Most have spines.
13. Indigenous people used this sedimentary rock to make fire and arrowheads.
16. The second type of habitat inside the canyon with a higher diversity of plants, cooler temperatures, and higher moisture.
17. An imprint left behind on the ground after an animal has walked across.
18. A type of cave formation made up of calcium carbonate that grows on the ceiling.
24. A hard sedimentary rock that is porous in Central Texas, made up of calcium carbonate.
25. A vertebrate (organisms with a spine) that swims in the water. They breathe using special organs called gills.
26. Any evidence of past life preserved in a petried form.
27. A warm-blooded (typically) flying animal that lays eggs and has a spine, a beak, feathers, and wings.
28. A recreational area of land for people to explore and get outside to experience nature.

