

Pre-Visit Activities Vocabulary List

ECOLOGY:

Nature Preserve: land that is kept safe from harm now and in the future so that wildlife can live in their natural habitat and people will have a chance to see wildlife in their natural setting

Conservation - (1) protection of valued resources - the preservation, management, and care of natural and cultural resources; (2) protection from change - keeping or protecting of something from change, loss, or damage

GEOLOGY:

Aquifer: An aquifer is an area underground that holds water in the gaps between rock, sand or gravel, sort of like an underground lake or stream.

Limestone: a type of rock, which is primarily made of calcium carbonate. Because limestone has many pores, water can be stored in it or travel through it.

Stalactite: an icicle-shaped deposit hanging from the roof of limestone caves. Stalactites gradually form by the evaporation of groundwater seeping through the cave's roof.

Stalagmite: a cone-shaped deposit extending upwards from the floor of a cave. Stalagmites gradually form as a result of groundwater seeping through and dripping from the cave's roof.

PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Animal Evidence: a clue or sign that an animal has been in the area

Burrow: a hole or tunnel in the ground made by an animal. The animal uses it as a place to live and to hide

Camouflage: markings or a disguise that help an animal or person hide

Diversity: a measure of the amount of variety in the types of plants and animals present in a given area.

Endangered species: an animal or plant, which is very rare and in danger of becoming extinct

Habitat: a place where a plant or animal can find food, water, shelter, and space.

Native plants: plants, which grow naturally in a region

Nest: a snug resting place created by birds and some other animals. Nests are usually round and made of twigs, grass, and mud.

Tracks: footprints or other marks left by an animal, person, or vehicle