



Exercise: 1

Instructions: There are many places in Idaho where one can observe caves. Caves come in a variety of shapes and sizes depending on where they are found. They can also form in different ways. This exercise will give you the opportunity to learn about caves and how they are formed. Use your knowledge and the Digital Atlas to answer the following questions.

1. How is a corrosion cave formed? What is required for these caves to form? What were they used for?
2. How is a solution cave formed? How is a solution cave different from a corrosion cave?
3. How do lava caves form? How large can such caves get?
4. How are stalactites and stalagmites formed? What are they made out of? How is this affected by the type of cave they are found in?
5. How did the Shoshone Ice Caves form? How thick is the layer of ice at the end of the cave? How can ice be there all year when temperatures in the summer get over 100 degrees?
6. In looking at the picture of the Minnetonka Caves, what kind of a cave do you think this is? What kinds of fossils are found in this cave? What do these fossils suggest about the ancient history of these caves? What do they suggest about the ancient history of our region?