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How Caves Benefit the Environment

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10/29/21

11:45

54 degrees

Sun with Clouds

At top of South Mountain

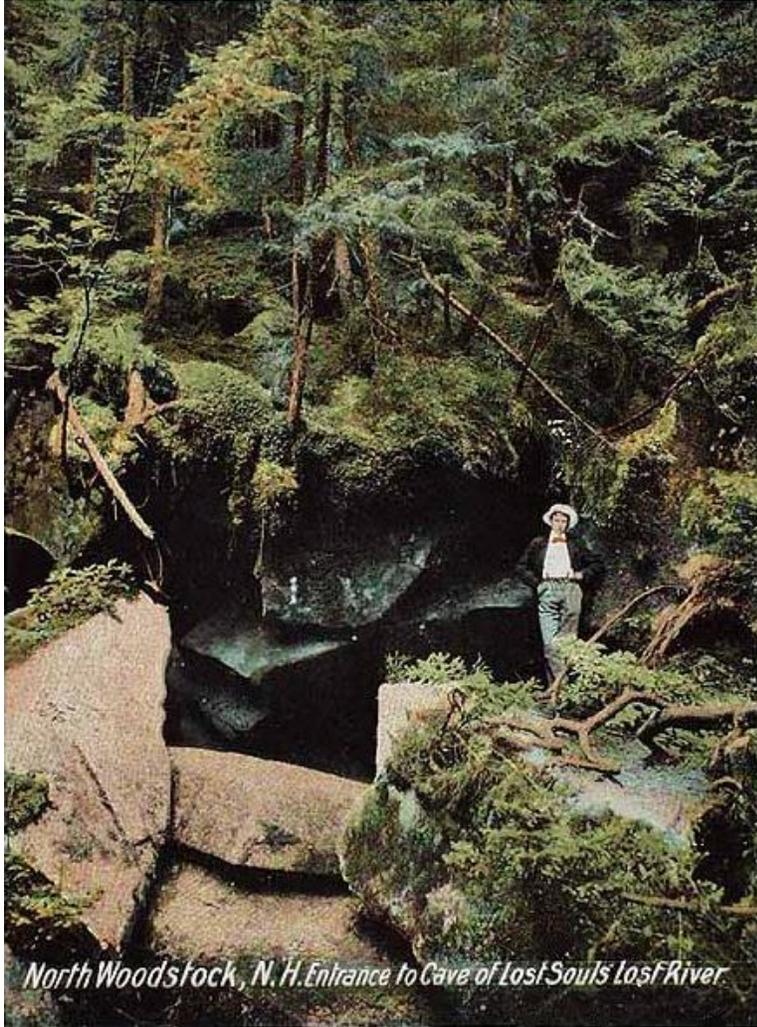
In Pawtuckaway

How Caves Benefit the Environment

I was eating lunch on top of a rock when I noticed the rock I was sitting on had a huge crack in it and was split in half. I looked closer to see that there was a small space under the rock that was about 3 and a half feet wide. It looked like a very small cave and it was filled with water, probably from the recent thunderstorms crossing this area. I got interested in this find since I've never really thought about caves and how they affect the environment. I then thought to myself, how are caves created, and how do they benefit the environment and wildlife?

I figured out with some research that caves are commonly created by water wearing away at limestone, this ends up becoming a vast network of caves where caverns can be created and found. However I am more interested in what caves have to offer as a whole, I did some more research and found out that the science of caves is called speleology. Through my research on caves I found a document called The geology of caves by the U.S. department of the interior. It revealed some interesting facts about how the caves in the U.S. like Mammoth cave in Kentucky were used by Homosapiens as shelter and other wildlife.

After all this research about how caves are made I still don't feel like my research is finished. I want to know why Homosapiens used the caves as shelter and what led them to develop into modern day humans. I want to learn more about why Homosapiens lived in caves and I think I can do this with some more research into the topic and by looking at cave paintings and more in the broad expanse of caves. These findings could show the beginnings of humanity and how it affected the evolution of our ancestors and how they helped the human species survive the harsh environment that is our world.



The geology of caves by the U.S. department of the interior
<https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/7000072/report.pdf>

How caves form

<https://www2.bgs.ac.uk/mendips/caveskarst/caveform.htm>