

# Project Underground

is a source of interdisciplinary instructional activities, and its staff conducts workshops and in-service training programs. These materials and workshops are designed for classroom teachers, cavern park, museum, and nature center staff, or any youth-oriented group leaders.

The purpose of Project Underground is to create and build awareness of and responsible attitudes toward karst and cave resources and their management needs.

The project is an environmental education program designed to promote better understanding of caves and karstlands.

It is a supplemental program for use by educators of kindergarten through high school age students.

Participants in Project Underground activities will gain an understanding of how the underground environment is an important part of the total environment.

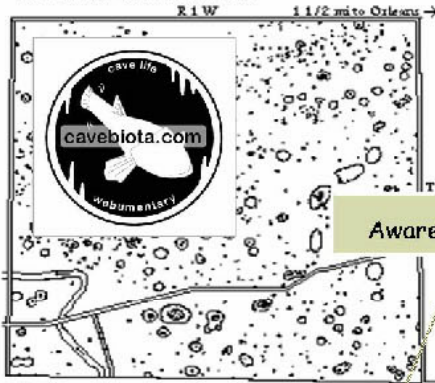


**Karst** is a term that was first applied in Yugoslavia. It has now come to be known throughout the world. Such regions are characterized by the presence of limestone or other soluble rocks, where drainage has been largely diverted into subterranean routes. The topography of such areas is dominated by sinkholes, sinking streams, large springs, and caves.

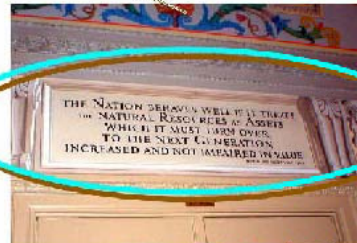
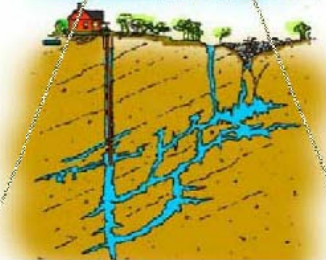
Unfortunately, many karst features are subject to incompatible or damaging uses, including vandalism. Most are on private land, often with owners apathetic to their preservation or unaware of their significance. Protection and awareness of karst features is what Project Underground is all about.



## Cave Critters



## Rocks & Water

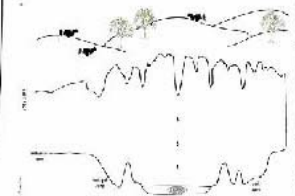
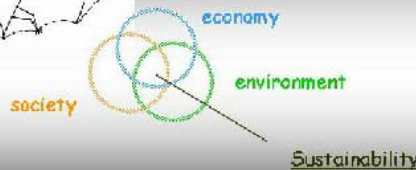
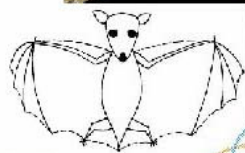


Awareness → Education → Acceptance



**Activity book** - Project Underground activities are in the *Natural Resource Education Guide*. It was designed by educators and experts in the various disciplines of speleology. The activities are interdisciplinary and level-correlated. The guide is divided into subject areas with background information provided in each section, for a list of associated state Standards of Learning (PDF). Example of activities: **Cave Critters**, **Rocks and Water**, **Use of Caves**.

**Education!**



## Use of Caves



[www.state.va.us/dcr/underground](http://www.state.va.us/dcr/underground)

Source: The Herald-Times