Jenny and Carlos get out of the rain

The bat helps Jenny and Carlos find a flashlight. They can see strangely shaped rocks and crystals all around them. A white fish with no eyes swims in an underground stream.

Jenny and Carlos meet more cave animals. White crickets and beetles live on piles of bat droppings. They can't see in the dark. Instead, they use long feelers to find their way.

Dripping water and rock take thousands of years to form cave sculptures. Sometimes people break the formations and they are gone forever.

On the way back to camp, Jenny and Carlos are caught in a bad storm. They take shelter under a rock, at the entrance to a cave. When they crawl into the dark cave, they get lost. A talking bat promises to lead them out of the cave.

People have used caves for centuries. In one cavern, Jenny and Carlos are impressed by paintings drawn by early Americans thousands of years ago. After they see the cave art, the bat leads the children out of the cave and they go back to camp.

WHERE ARE AMERICA'S CAVES?

LA VA CAVES

Lava caves are tubular passages formed when molten rock flows away from volcanoes. Cool air causes the rock to harden on the outside, and when all the lava has drained out, the tube becomes a cave.

SEA CAVES

Sea caves are formed by waves crashing on rocky coastlines.

ICE CAVES

Ice caves are formed by water flowing underneath glaciers of ice. Light passing through the ice makes the caves blue.

CAVE ANIMALS

Troglophiles

Troglophiles are animals that like to live in caves but also live elsewhere.

Troglophiles

Troglophiles are animals that only live in caves. They can't survive anywhere else.

Troglobites

The term TROGLO means hole. Troglophilic animals are those who sometimes choose caves as their home.

Trogloxenes

The word TROGLOXenes means hole. Trogloxenes are animals who sometimes choose caves as their home.

DANGER!

Cave explorers always go in groups, never alone. If an accident does happen, cavers can help each other or send for rescuers. Joining a caving club is a good way to learn safe caving skills.

HANDLE WITH CARE!

Damage to Cave Environments
When we visit caves, we must do no harm. Trash can kill cave wildlife. Graffiti makes the walls ugly and lasts forever. Cave features take thousands of years to grow. A broken stalactite or gypsum flower can't be put back together. Future visitors will want to see unspoiled caves as much as we do!