

CAVES - PICTURE BOOK LESSONS

RECOMMENDED READS
"Books About Caves, Animals, and Nature"

SCAVENGER HUNT
Name _____ Teacher _____
How many of these pictures and facts can you find in the presentation?
What kind of cave formation looks like icicles hanging from the top/ceiling of the cave?
True or false: Antarctica has lots of caves.
In what Dewey Decimal section will you find books about cave animals?
Name two bioluminescent animals.

LET'S DRAW A CAVE SALAMANDER!

LET'S TALK ABOUT...CAVES!
Today in the library, we learned about caves!
Here are some things I learned...

PICTURE BOOKS ABOUT NATURE

- Caves (Neil Cross Beckerman)
- Canyons (Jason Chin)
- A River of Dust: The Life-Giving Link Between North Africa and the Amazon (Julianne Hottel)
- City of Cave-dwellers: A Sushukumbh Society of Millions (Amy Heston)

SIGN LANGUAGE "CAVE"

STALAGMITE SNACK
You will need:
• Animal crackers (painted cave animals)
• Chocolate chips (bats)
• Red licorice ropes or twists (lava tubes)
• Small gummy worms (glow-worms)
• Ping-pong balls or other cone-shaped salty snacks (caves)
• Stalactite and stalagmite rods (stalactites and stalagmites)
• Clay balls (boulders)

OTHER BLIND CAVE ANIMALS

The Mexican tetra fish isn't the only cave animal that cannot see!
Here are some other cave animals that have adapted to life in the darkness.



Texas blind salamander
(Edwards Aquifer, near San Marcos, Texas)



Dougherty Plain cave crayfish
(Florida and Georgia, USA)



blind cave beetle
(Slovenia)

GRADES
2-5



EDITABLE IN THREE FORMATS



neon tetra fish



Mexican tetra fish

TRIVIA QUESTION

Look closely at these two tetra fish.

Which one do you think lives its entire life in dark caves? How can you tell?

(answer on next slide)

Presentation is editable in PowerPoint and Google Slides.

Printables are editable in PowerPoint, Google Slides, and PDF formats.

PART I - WHOLE-GROUP LESSON

Since this is a Library Lesson Mini, the whole-group lesson is only three slides.

These slides introduce a read-aloud with a short whole-group discussion.



WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT CAVES AND CAVERNS?

- Has anyone here been inside a cave?
- What can you find inside caves?
- What kinds of animals live in caves?
- What does the temperature inside a cave feel like?

Entrance to Mammoth Cave (Kentucky, USA)

©2019 Photo by P. H. 2019

PART II - SCROLLING SLIDES

WORD OF THE WEEK

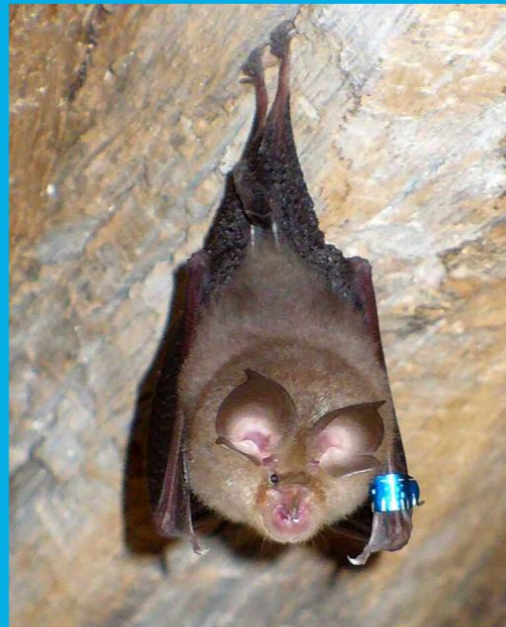
ADAPTATION

Sometimes, animals slowly change themselves to survive.

These changes are called **adaptations**.

Some cave animal adaptations include:

- Loss of eyes or eyesight
- Ability to survive longer without food
- Better tolerance of hot or cold cave temperatures
- Growing longer legs and antennae to feel their way around the cave
- Loss of skin pigment / coloring
- Developing skills like **echolocation** (bats) to find food



lesser horseshoe bat wearing a blue identification band

The slides in Part II need to be set on a timer (instructions with visuals included).

The scrolling slides include fun facts about caves, vocabulary, Would-You-Rathers, a library skill review, and trivia questions.

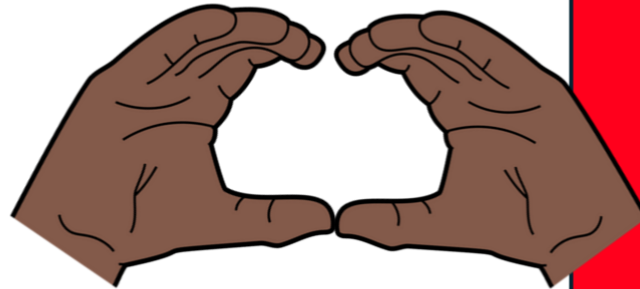
Students watch the slideshow to find the images and information included in the differentiated Scavenger Hunt activities.

EASY-TO-READ FONTS

SAY IT IN SIGN LANGUAGE

To sign cave in American Sign Language:

- Make a C shape on both hands
- Bring fingertips of both hands together in an “O” shape
- Move your dominant hand back just a bit, toward your chest. This shows that the cave (the “O” shape) is deep.



[See photos of how to make this sign](#)

All my resources are designed to maximize readability and accessibility for all students.

Only two fonts are used in all parts of this resource: Arial (body text, recommended by the British Dyslexia Association) and KG Blank Space Solid (headers).

There is no cursive, no fancy fonts, and no random capitalizations.

Lines of text are spaced at 1.5 throughout the slide presentation.

IS THERE ANY AI?

IMAGES

This presentation has
no AI-generated images!

All clipart was purchased
from human artists on TPT.

All photos are public domain photos.

CAVES IN THE NEWS

In 2018, a soccer team of 12 boys and their coach got trapped
inside the Tham Luang Nang Non cave system in Thailand.

A sudden flood blocked their way out of the cave.
They were trapped inside the cave for 15 days.

The boys were ages 11-16. The rescue
was extremely difficult and dangerous.

All the boys and their coach survived, but sadly,
one brave diver died while trying to rescue them.



Rescuers and equipment at the entrance to the Tham Luong Cave

TEXT: All text is original (not AI-generated), thoroughly-researched,
and written by a certified Texas teacher-librarian with an MLS Degree.

DIFFERENTIATED SCAVENGER HUNTS

Name _____ Teacher _____

SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you find all the pictures in the presentation?

EASIER



handprints




Mexican tetra fish




cave crayfish




cave painting



bat



paint palette










"Cave" in sign language

Name _____ Teacher _____

SCAVENGER HUNT

How many of these pictures and facts can you find in the presentation?

HARDER






<p>What kind of cave formation looks like icicles hanging from the top/ceiling of the cave?</p> 	<p>True or false: Antarctica has lots of caves.</p> <p>true</p>	<p>In what Dewey Decimal section will you find books about cave animals?</p> <p>500 section</p>
<p>Name two bioluminescent animals</p> 	<p>Name two ways cave animals have adapted to living in darkness.</p> 	<p>Another word for caving (2 possible answers)</p> 
<p>What natural event caused a soccer team and their coach to get trapped in a cave in 2018?</p> 	<p>Another word for caving (2 possible answers)</p> 	<p>How are petroglyphs different from cave paintings?</p> 

Name **ANSWER KEY** _____ Teacher _____

SCAVENGER HUNT

How many of these pictures and facts can you find in the presentation?

ANSWER KEY

<p>What kind of cave formation looks like icicles hanging from the top/ceiling of the cave?</p> <p>stalactites</p> 	<p>True or false: Antarctica has lots of caves.</p> <p>true</p>	<p>In what Dewey Decimal section will you find books about cave animals?</p> <p>500 section</p> 
<p>Name two bioluminescent animals</p> <p>glow-worms jellyfish fireflies</p>	<p>Name two ways cave animals have adapted to living in darkness.</p> <p>Loss of color Echolocation Long antennae Long legs Long time, no eating</p> 	<p>Another word for caving (2 possible answers)</p> <p>spelunking potholing</p>
<p>What natural event caused a soccer team and their coach to get trapped in a cave in 2018?</p> <p>Almost all are left hands</p> 	<p>Another word for caving (2 possible answers)</p> <p>spelunking potholing</p>	<p>How are petroglyphs different from cave paintings?</p> <p>Petroglyphs are carved into the rock (not painted or drawn on)</p> 

CAVES (AND MORE!) BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDED READS

“Books About Caves, Animals, and Nature”



INFORMATIONAL PICTURE BOOKS

Caves (Nell Cross Beckerman)
Canyon (Jason Chin)
Butterflies Are Pretty...Gross! (Rosemary Mosco)
Fungi Grow (Maria Gianferrari)
The Gentle Genius of Trees (Philip Bunting)
A River of Dust: The Life-Giving Link Between North Africa and the Amazon (Jilanne Hoffmann)
City of Leafcutter Ants: A Sustainable Society of Millions (Amy Hevron)
I Was: The Stories of Animal Skulls (Katherine Hocker)
Life After Whale: The Amazing Ecosystem of a Whale Fall (Lynn Brunelle)
World of Rot: Learn All about the Wiggly, Slimy, Super-Cool Decomposers We Couldn't Live Without (Britt Crow-Miller)
Luminous: Living Things That Light Up the Night (Julia Kuo)
The Animal Toolkit: How Animals Use Tools (Steve Jenkins and Robin Page)
Time to Shine Celebrating the World's Iridescent Animals (Karen Jameson)
The Tide Pool Waits (Candace Fleming)
The Shark Book (Steve Jenkins)

LONGER NONFICTION

All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team (Christina Soontomvat)
Octopus Ocean: Geniuses of the Deep (Mark Leiren-Young)
The Observologist (Giselle Clarkson)
The Last Unexplored Place on Earth: Investigating the Ocean Floor with Alvin the Submersible (Aly Brown)
Mission: Arctic: A Scientific Adventure to a Changing North Pole (Katharina Weiss-Tuider)
Search for a Giant Squid (Amy Seto Forrester)
Race to the Bottom of the Earth: Surviving Antarctica (Rebecca E. F. Barone)

CHAPTER BOOKS AND FICTION

The Canyon's Edge (Dusti Bowling)
Cats a Billion Followers (Angela Dominguez)

This is an editable list of 35 recommended picture books, fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels about caves, animals, and nature.

I am a Texas-certified, experienced school librarian and ELA teacher. I hand-selected every book on this list.

Every title on this list is well-reviewed for Grades 2-5 and includes positive professional reviews in Titlewave.

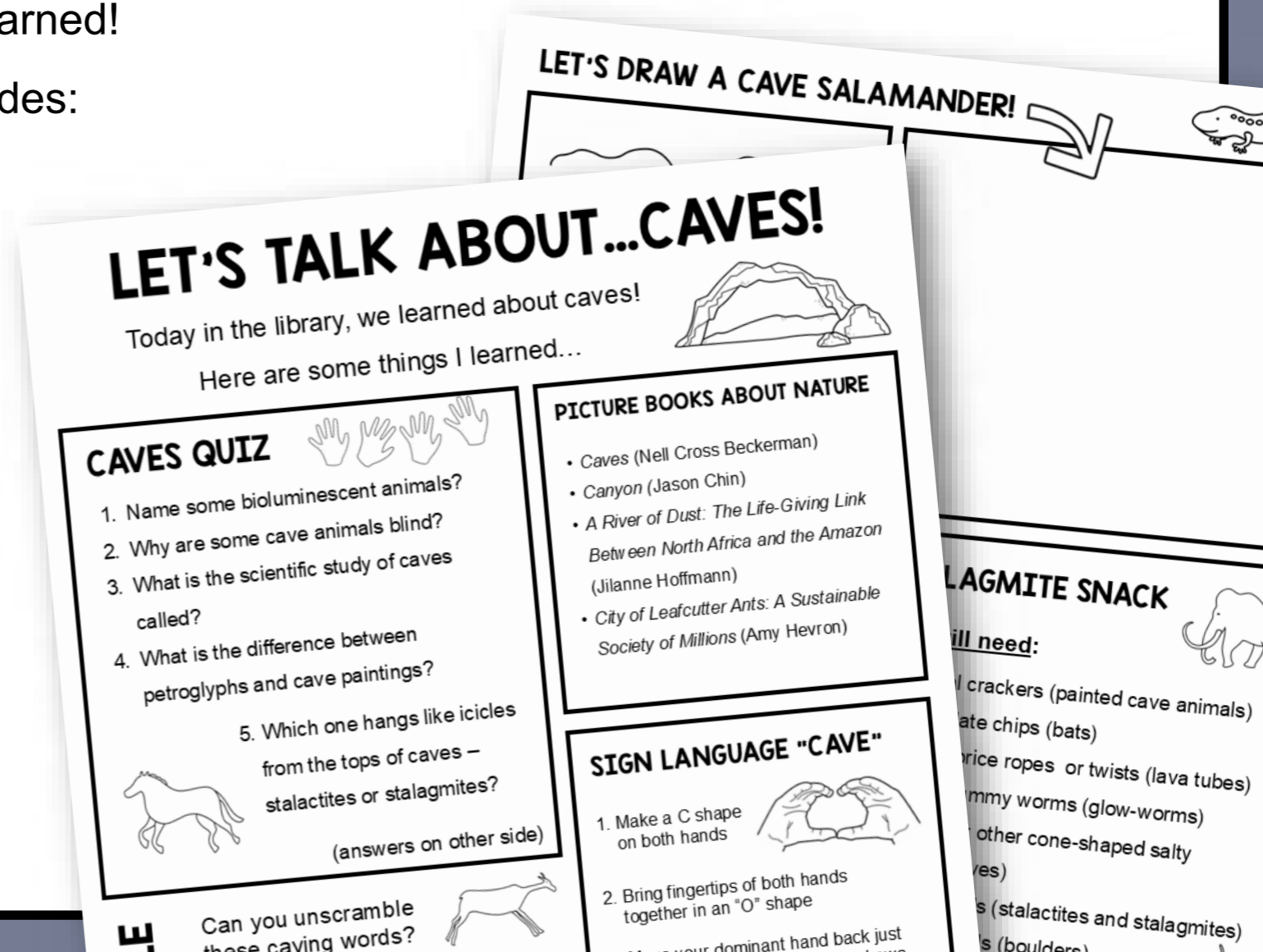
Use it for your own reference, add it to cave and nature book displays, or send it to teachers or home to parents!

TAKE-HOME EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

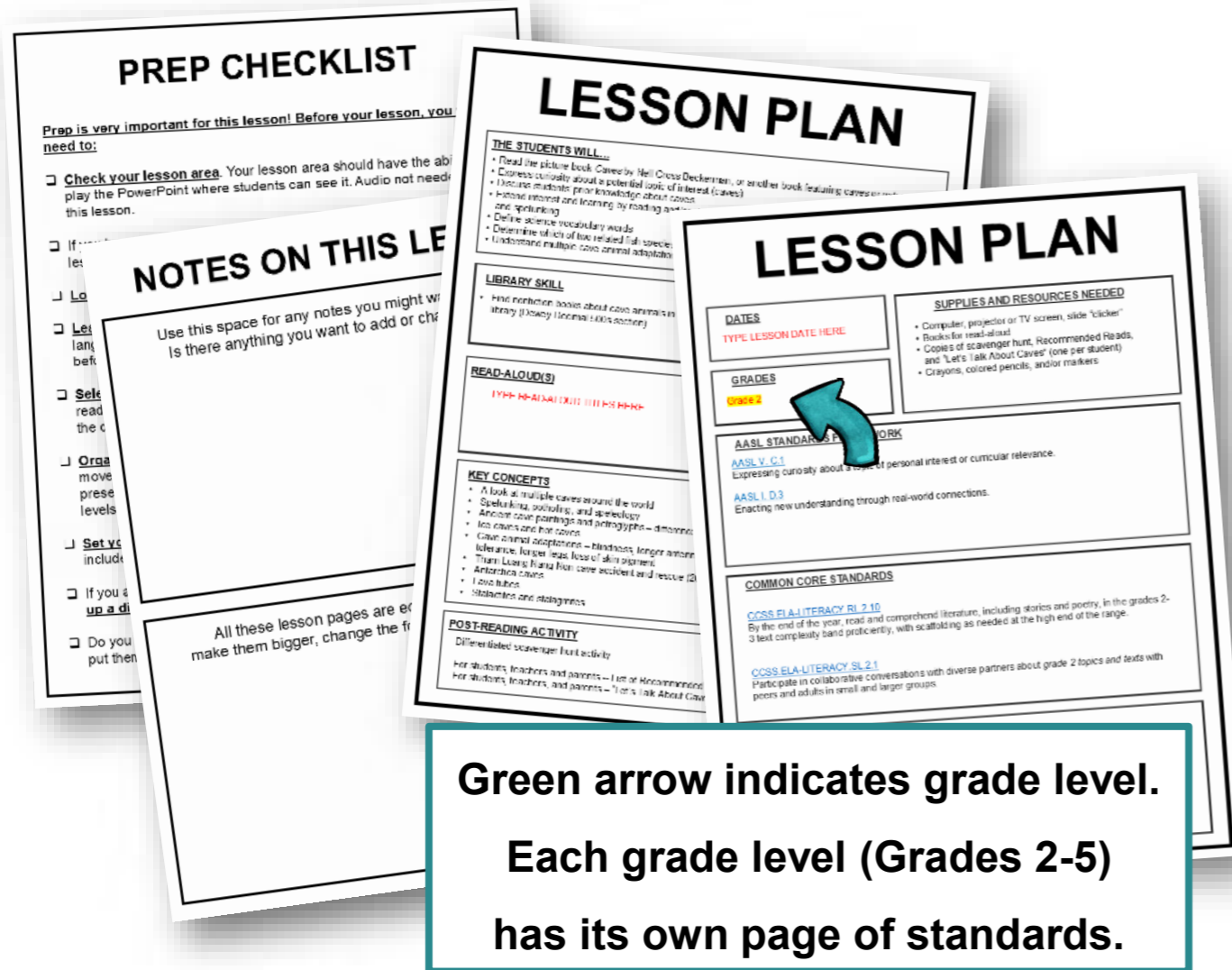
Students love to show off what they've learned!

This take-home extension activity includes:

- Short Caves quiz (answers on back)
- List of 4 informational picture books
- "Cave" sign language
- Cave word scramble
- How to draw a salamander
- Cave-themed snack



EDITABLE LESSON PLAN



Includes pre-filled lesson plan with AASL, CCSS, and TEKS standards for Grades 2-5.

The Notes page is a place where you can make notes to yourself for next year, or whenever you teach this lesson again.

Green arrow indicates grade level. Each grade level (Grades 2-5) has its own page of standards.


100% editable to make it as easy and useful as possible!

MORE PICTURE BOOK LESSONS

Love this Picture Book Lesson Lesson? I have a lot more! All follow the same format as this one.

INCLUDES GOOGLE™ SLIDES

HOW SWEET THE SOUND PICTURE BOOK LESSON



TRIVIA QUESTION


Which artist is known as the "Queen of Soul"?

Donna Summer OR Aretha Franklin OR Whitney Houston

(answer on next slide)

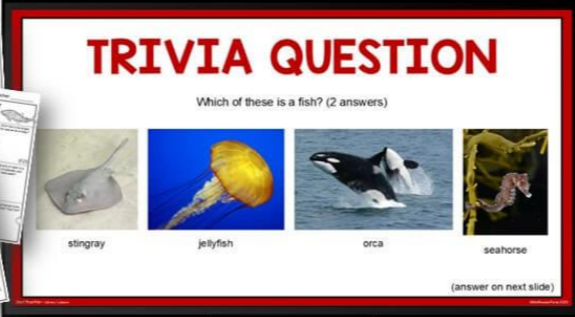
GRADES 2-5

designed for use with *How Sweet the Sound* picture book by Kwame Alexander



INCLUDES GOOGLE™ SLIDES

DON'T TRUST FISH PICTURE BOOK LESSON



TRIVIA QUESTION


Which of these is a fish? (2 answers)

stingray jellyfish orca seahorse

(answer on next slide)

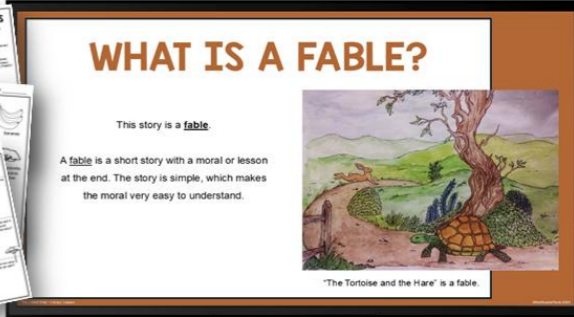
GRADES K-3

designed for use with *Don't Trust Fish* picture book by Neil Sharpson



INCLUDES GOOGLE™ SLIDES

THE LITTLEST DROP PICTURE BOOK LESSON



WHAT IS A FABLE?

This story is a fable.

A fable is a short story with a moral or lesson at the end. The story is simple, which makes the moral very easy to understand.

"The Tortoise and the Hare" is a fable.

GRADES 1-3

designed for use with *The Littlest Drop* picture book by Sascha Alper

