

Caving Quiz

Take only one copy of this quiz per patrol. Each patrol should get together before the meeting and try to answer as many of the questions as possible before the meeting begins. Almost everything will be covered tonight. See how much you know before we start the meeting.

1. What is the minimum number of cavers for a caving trip, and why?
2. What is a reasonable maximum number and why?
3. How many sources of light should each caver take into the cave with him? How about batteries and lightbulbs? Do candles count?
4. Which is better: electric lights or carbide lamps? What are the disadvantages and advantages of each?
5. Should a caver wear cotton clothes or synthetics or wool? Why?
6. What type of shoes should be worn in a cave?
7. What sort of food is good for caving trips? How much water should you take per person?
8. Does a compass work in a cave?
9. How can you keep your cave map from getting mucked up?
10. Are kneepads worth the trouble?
11. What sort of overalls should you get?
12. What sort of pack works well in a cave?
13. Do you need to sterilize water in a cave before drinking it?
14. Is rabies a big danger from bats?
15. What happens if you wake up bats in the winter?
16. How much do bats eat each night during the summer?
17. How does a mother bat find her baby bat after flying all night long outside collecting insects to feed her baby? When she returns to the cave, her baby is not in the same place and may be mixed in with a colony of hundreds or even thousands of other baby bats.

18. How long does it take to grow an inch of stalagmite from the ceiling? How do stalagmites form?
19. What is another name for a caver?
20. What is the name of the national society for cavers? What is the address for their national headquarters?
21. What is it called when a caver descends a pit on a rope? What is a pit and how are they formed? What is a dome?
22. What one thing should you always do before leaving town for a caving trip and upon returning to town after a caving trip?
23. Who should you contact in an emergency to get help in a caving accident?
24. Is it OK to explore a cave on private property? How do you go about getting permission? How do you find out about caves to go explore which match your abilities?
25. Is it permissible to take any formations out of a cave for your personal collection?
26. What do you do with your dead batteries, used up carbide, or trash from lunch? What do you do if you are deep in a cave and have to go to the bathroom?
27. When you get out of the cave, you will be wet and very muddy. Now it is time to get in the cars and return to the campsite. But the cars are so nice and clean. What do you do?
28. What is the temperature in a cave? Can you get hypothermia in a cave?