

An Underwater Cave...



GO

Jacob's Well Natural Area, near Wimberley, is not only a beautiful place to visit, it is also an interesting and fun place to learn more about **geology** and wildlife. A highlight of the natural area is Jacob's Well, an artesian spring that flows into Cypress Creek. At the surface of Jacob's Well you can see sunfish or perhaps Guadalupe bass, turtles, and other wildlife that live around the spring. Below the water runs a deep, long cave. You can watch a video of the underwater cave at the Nature Center.

KNOW

Limestone: a Many-layered Story

- As you walk the trail to Jacob's Well, check out the rocky cliff on the upper side of the creek. Notice the different layers of rock. Each layer was formed at a different time. The newest layer is at the top of the cliff, and the oldest is at the bottom.
- The layers tell a story about the plants and animals that lived here before people.
- A long time ago, most of Texas was covered by a shallow sea. The skeletons of ocean plants and animals settled on the sea floor. Over time, they got crushed into layers of limestone. Limestone has the same white calcium as in chalk—and your teeth and bones!
- Can you find any fossils in the limestone? Maybe you will see the shape of an old shell creature that once lived in the ancient sea.



GROW



Find a Rock or Find a Fossil

Geologists study rocks to learn how the Earth formed and how it changes over time.

Paleontologists study the history of the Earth through fossils of plants and animals.

1. Today I am a (circle one):

Geologist Paleontologist

2. Draw your favorite rock or fossil on the opposite page (p. 19).

3. List three adjectives that describe how your rock or fossil looks or feels.

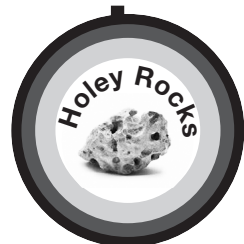
_____, _____, _____

4. Check off the types of rocks you see while exploring:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a smooth rock | <input type="checkbox"/> a round rock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a rock as small as your fingertip | <input type="checkbox"/> a rough rock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a flat rock | <input type="checkbox"/> a rock bigger than you |

Karst is a Special Type of Rock

Underneath Jacob's Well, water flows through the limestone or **karst** rock. Over millions of years, rain falls, rock dissolves, and holes form within the rock. **Karst** is **permeable** and **porous**, letting water flow through and be stored in underground tunnels, caves, and big caverns. Water that is stored in rock and soil formations underground is called an **aquifer**. **Aquifers** provide water for us to drink.



Jacob's Well Natural Area Wimberley, TX

