Cavers take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints
Some caves are big
Some caves are very small
Some are beautiful
Some... not so much
We get our drinking water from caves in the Edwards Aquifer.
Some caves are dry
How Caves Form

Source of Water
Rain

Relief
Change in elevation

Limestone
Fractures

4 Factors needed to create limestone cave
Some caves have formations in them

- Soda straws
- Stalactites
- Column
- Stalagmites
- Flowstone
- Rimstone Dams
Formations are created from limestone that is deposited in layers inside of the cave.
Columns are created when stalactites join with stalagmites.
This bacon is made of rock
Caves preserve things that would be destroyed on the earth’s surface
the Mayans used caves as burial sites
The entrance to Natural Bridge Caverns
Map of Natural Bridge Caverns

NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS
COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS

SURVEY:
TRIANGULATION & DISTANCE MEASURED
PERSONAL SURVEYORS:
JOHN RAY, JIM MOORE, DON WARDL, JAMES MEADE
STAFF SURVEYORS OF:
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS CAVES

TYPICAL SURVEY LENGTH JANUARY, 1976
100 FEET / 30 METER

DRAWN BY IRWIN KNOX
© 1978 IRWIN KNOX
The cave has many formations
How Cave Biology Works

Cave Zones

Entrance Zone
- Sunlight
- Variable Temperature
- Green vegetation

Twilight Zone
- Less light
- Minor temperature changes
- Minimal plant life

Dark Zone
- No light
- Constant temperature
The entrance zone
Many animals like to live in cave entrances.
Be careful! Some snakes like to live in the entrances of wild caves
Lizards are also found around cave entrances and in the twilight zone.
Cave crickets live in the twilight zone.
Bats often live in both the twilight zone and in the dark zone.
Freetails are called the jets of the bat world
The largest bat colony in the world is in Bracken Bat Cave. It is home to millions of Mexican Freetail Bats.
Every night in the summer they come out to eat insects like moths and mosquitoes.
If the cave has water other creatures can be found in the dark zone
Blind Cave Fish
Texas Blind Salamander
Caves are precious resources that need to be preserved!