

My Favorite Thing at Westcave was:

Visit Westcave again with Family and Friends!

Make a reservation at www.westcave.org

Westcave is open to the public for guided tours to the grotto area, and self-guided hiking on our Uplands. The guided grotto hike takes visitors from an arid savannah through a limestone crevice into a sheltered canyon of lush plant life! At the head of the canyon stands Westcave, with a stunning 40-foot waterfall replenishing the emerald pool below. Each tour is 1.5 hours of hiking, learning, and fun on a 1 mile loop trail.

Additional Activities and Resources at:

westcave.org/resources/teacher-resources

24814 Hamilton Pool Rd

Round Mountain, TX 78663

(830) 825-3442

info@westcave.org



Westcave Preserve











Date: _____

Group: _____









Explorer Name: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____
 Temperature: S: _____ RW: _____
 Time S: _____ RW: _____
 Weather Conditions: _____

Animal Evidence Checklist

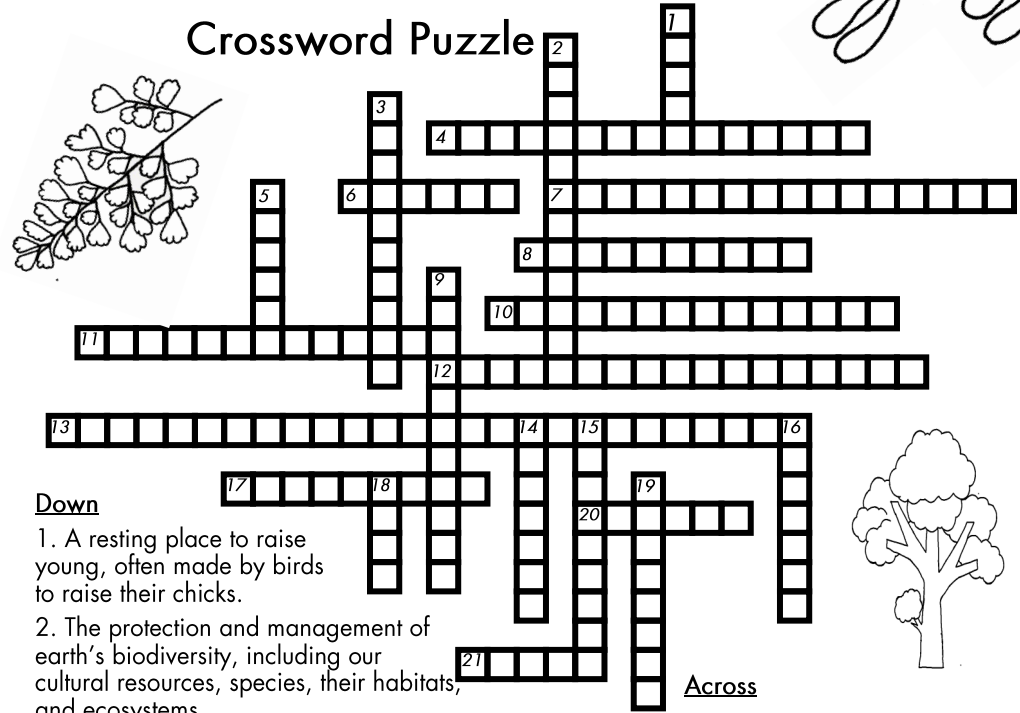
	Riparian Woodland	Savannah	Riparian Woodland	Savannah
Shape	Trails 	Homes 	Sounds 	Sightings 
Tracks	Scat 	Smells 	Body Parts 	Eating Signs 
Fossils				

Leaf Checklist

	Riparian Woodland	Savannah	Riparian Woodland	Savannah
Shape	Heart 	Feather Like 	Single Palmately 	Single Pinnately 
Fan	Scale Like 	Compound Palmately 	Compound Pinnately 	Double Compound 
Serrate Edge (teeth)				

Animal and Botanical Marvels

Crossword Puzzle



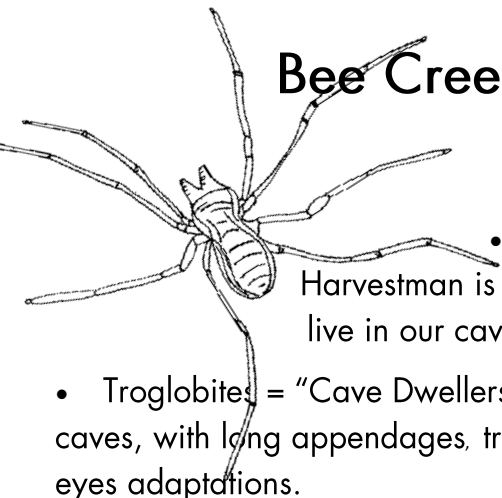
Down

1. A resting place to raise young, often made by birds to raise their chicks.
2. The protection and management of earth's biodiversity, including our cultural resources, species, their habitats, and ecosystems.
3. A possible explanation of an observation, phenomenon, or problem that can be tested by further investigation.
5. Footprints or other marks left by an animal, person, or vehicle.
9. The action of watching or monitoring one's surroundings to gain information for scientific purposes.
14. An underground layer of permeable, porous, or fractured rock that holds and moves water.
15. An interaction between two different organisms who live in a close physical association with one another.
16. A place where a plant or animal can find the three necessary items for survival: food, water, and shelter (space).
18. The scientific name for an animal poop.
19. An area of land managed to protect its flora, fauna, natural resources, and landscape.

Across

4. A living organism that is not native to an ecosystem, causing harm to the environment and its inhabitants.
6. Any evidence of past life preserved in a petrified form.
7. The second type of habitat inside the canyon with a higher diversity of plants, cooler temperatures, and higher moisture content.
8. Markings or a disguise that helps an animal hide from others.
10. A clue/sign that an animal has been in the area.
11. An organism that has adaptations for and is naturally found in a particular area.
12. An organism that is very rare and in danger of becoming extinct.
13. The first habitat we walked through at Westcave Preserve that was a grassland with two main trees.
17. A measure of the amount of variety in the types of plants and animals present in a given area.
20. A hole or tunnel in the ground made by an animal. The animal uses it as a place to live and hide.
21. A large round growth found on trees that serve as a home to the larva of a tiny wasp. The wasp previously stung the tree to insert its larva.

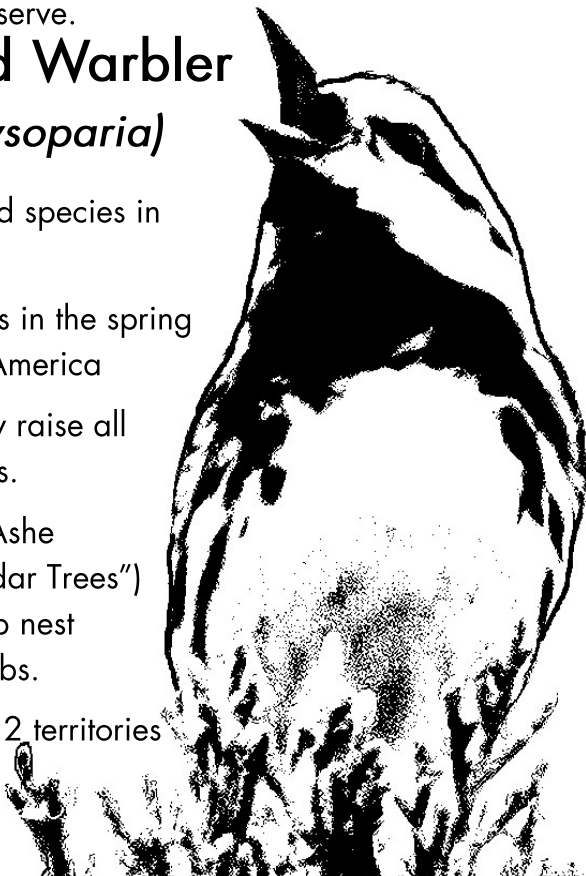
Bee Creek Cave Harvestman (*Texella reddelli*)



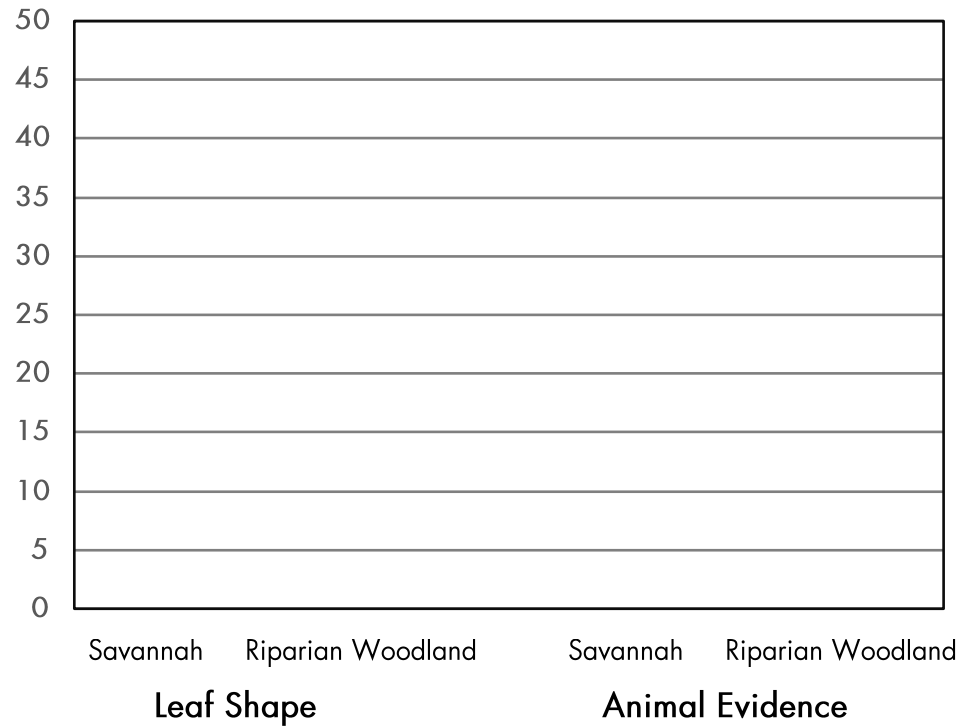
- The endangered Bee Creek Cave Harvestman is one of many karst invertebrates that live in our cave.
- Troglobites = "Cave Dwellers," spend their entire lives inside of caves, with long appendages, translucent coloration, and lack of eyes adaptations.
- A harvestman is not a spider.
 - Spiders = two distinct body segments
 - Harvestmen = fused body or one segment.
- There are currently 6 endangered Karst invertebrates in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve.

Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*)

- Listed as an endangered species in May of 1990
- Migrate to central Texas in the spring from Mexico and Central America
- Are native Texans. They raise all their young in central Texas.
- Entirely dependent on Ashe Juniper (locally called "Cedar Trees") bark to build their open-cup nest held together by spider webs.
- Westcave typically has 2 territories Established each year.
- Eat insects and spiders



Comparison of the Biodiversity at Westcave



1. What was the most common animal evidence?
2. What was the most common leaf shape?
3. Did you find more in the Savannah or the Riparian Woodland?
4. Why do you think there was more evidence/leaf shapes there?
5. Based on the data Which habitat is more biodiverse?
6. What animal evidence/leaf shapes have you seen at school?

Where did you find the most water today?

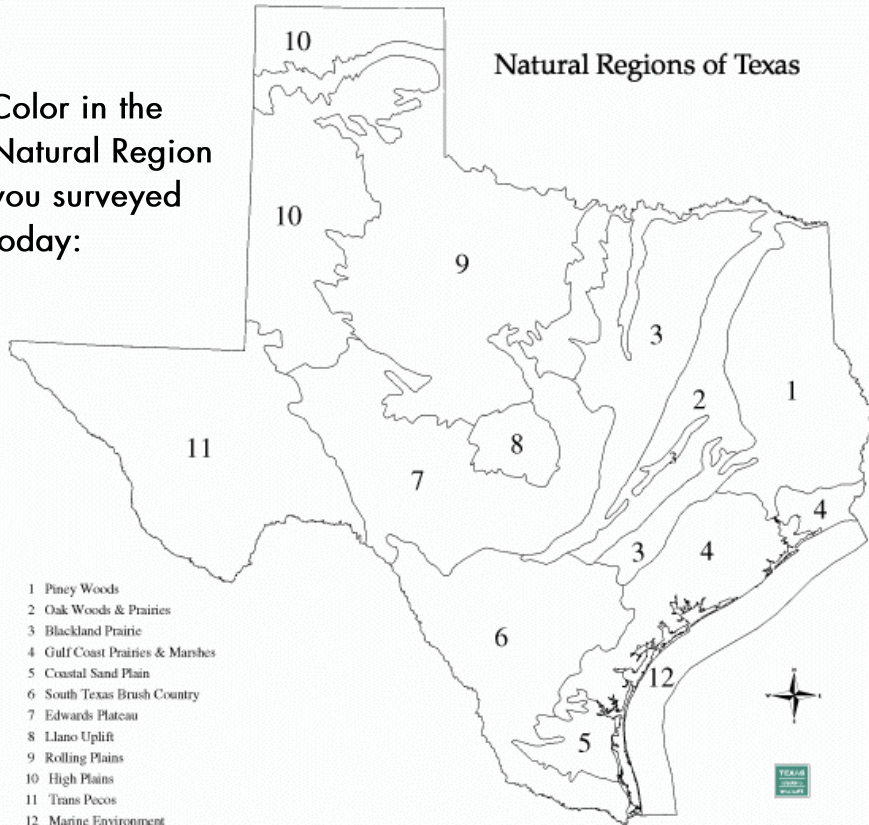
What was a common food source and what animal might consume it?

What shelter did you discover today? How much space did it provide?

Do you think Westcave is a good habitat? Why?

Which Natural Region of Texas did you survey today?

Color in the Natural Region you surveyed today:



Source: *Assessing River-Mediated Shading*, UIC School of Public Affairs Policy Research Project, Report 26, 1998.

Projection: Statewide Mapping System. Map compiled by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department GIS Unit. No claims are made for the accuracy of the data or to the reliability of the data in a particular use.

Let your imagination run wild!

Reflect on your visit at Westcave and draw, write, or sketch your observations or experience below:

How can you stand up for the Earth?
