

# Caves



**Cavers take nothing but pictures and  
leave nothing but footprints**



# Some caves are big





Some caves are very small







**Some are beautiful**

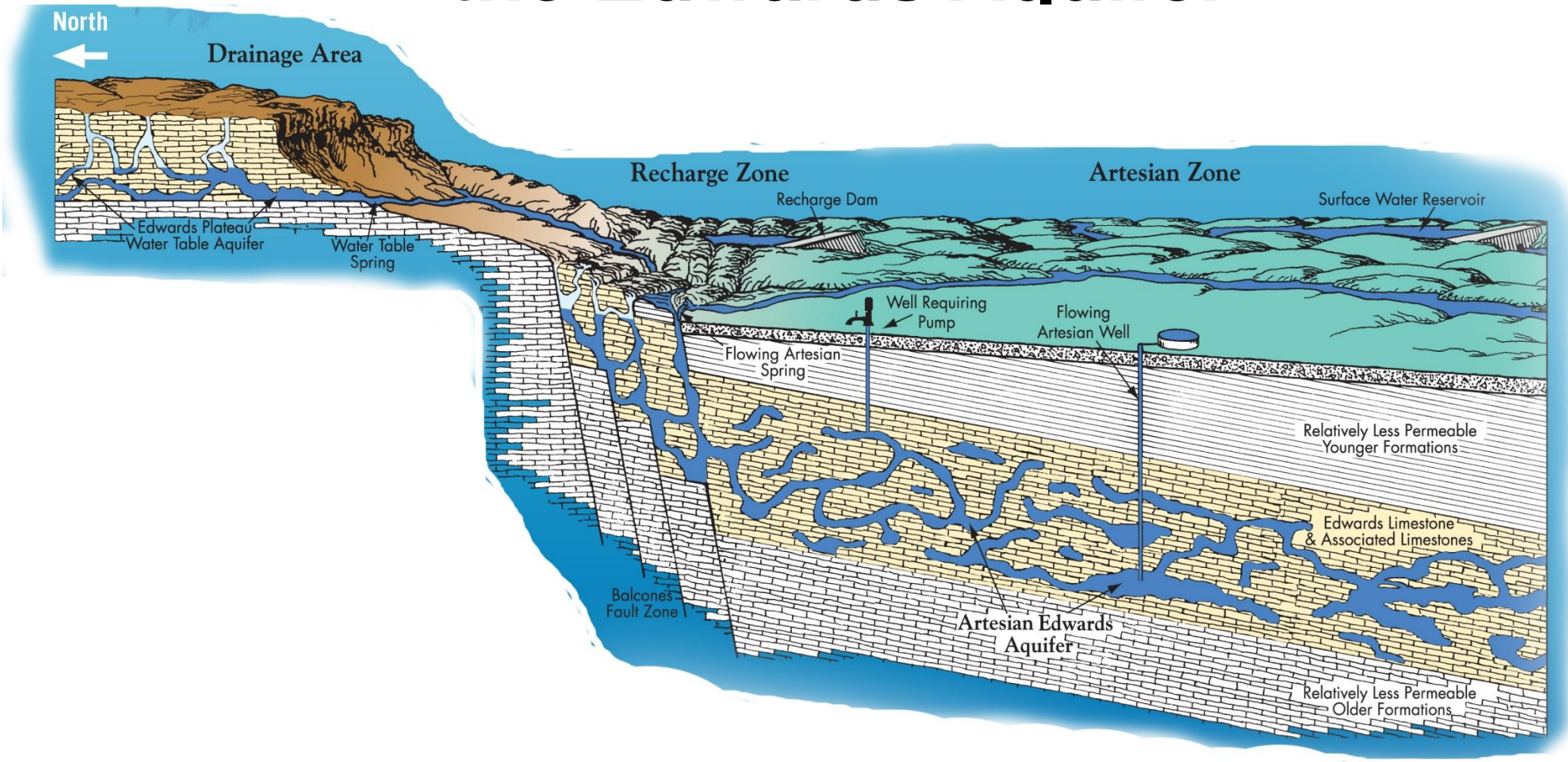




**Some... not so much**



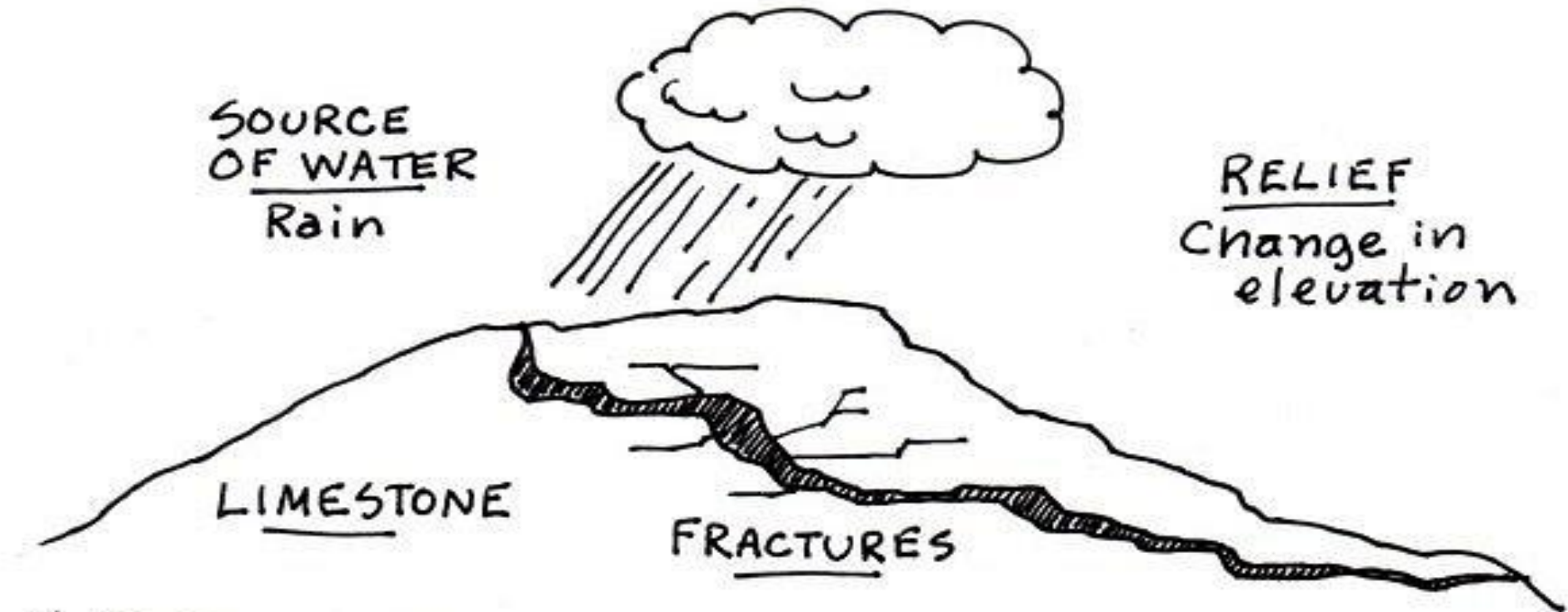
# We get our drinking water from caves in the Edwards Aquifer



# Some caves are dry

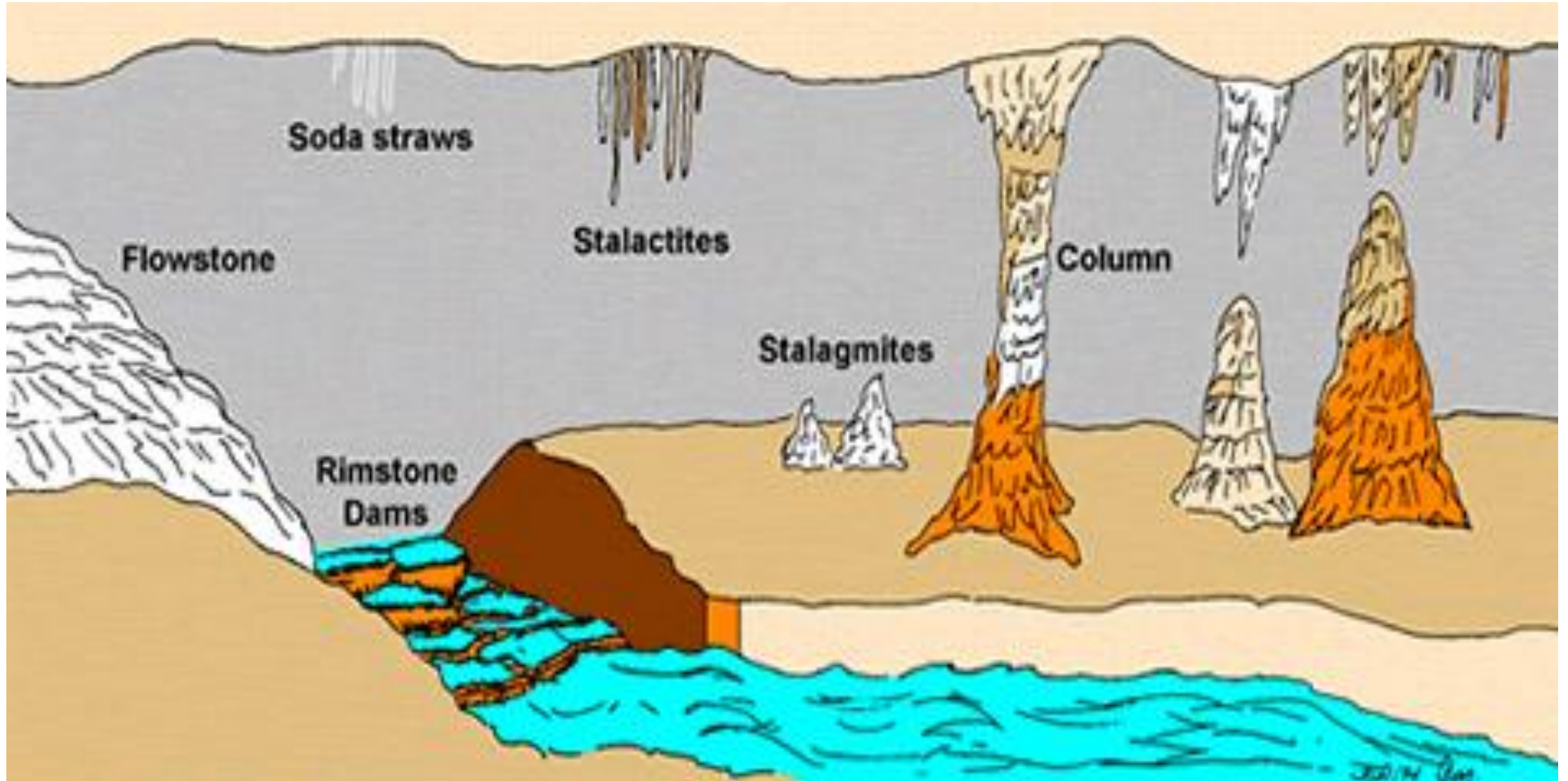


# HOW CAVES FORM

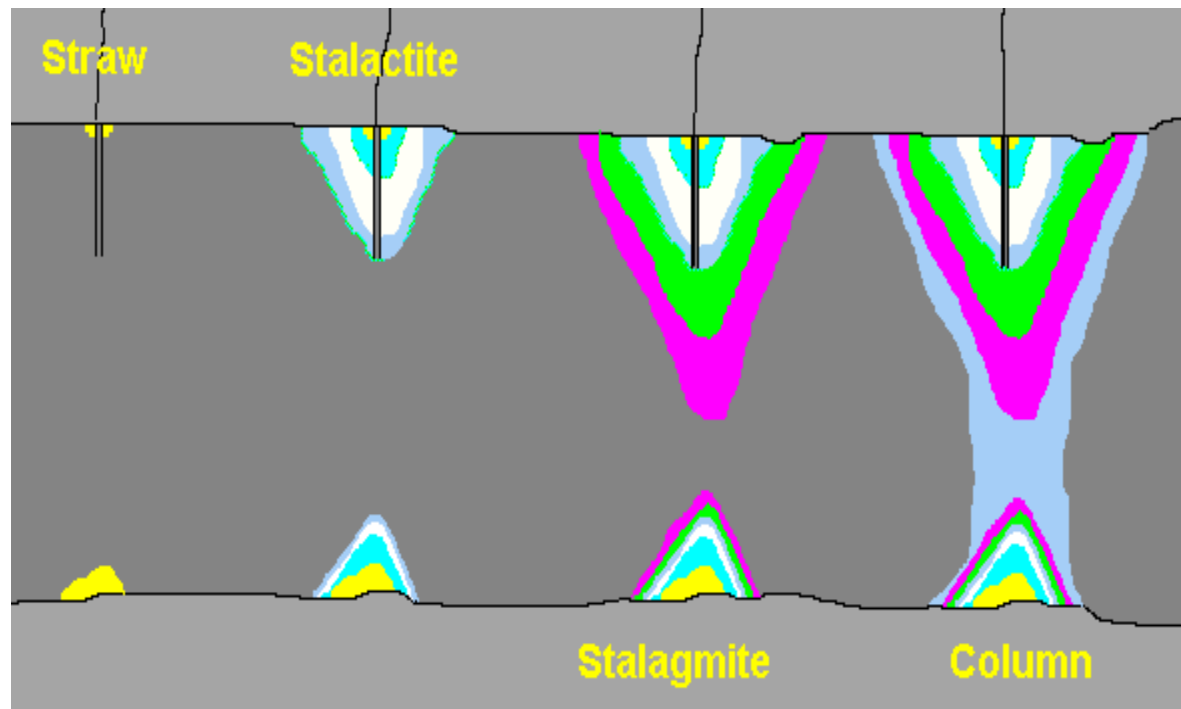
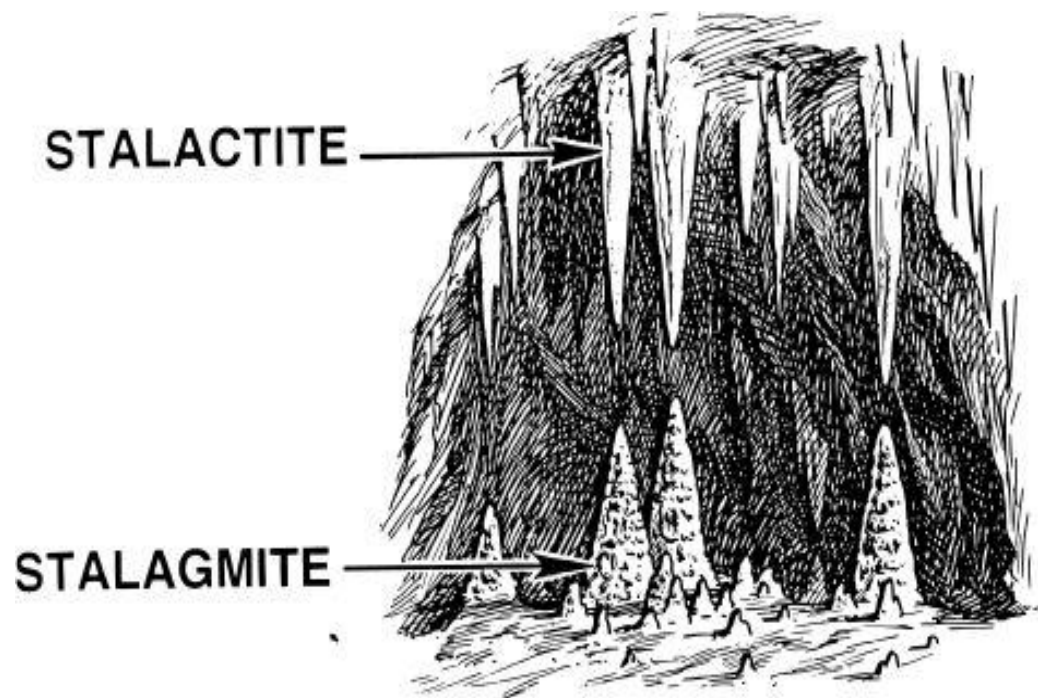


4 FACTORS NEEDED TO CREATE LIMESTONE CAVE

# Some caves have formations in them







**Formations are created from limestone that is deposited in layers inside of the cave**





**Columns are created when stalactites  
join with stalagmites**



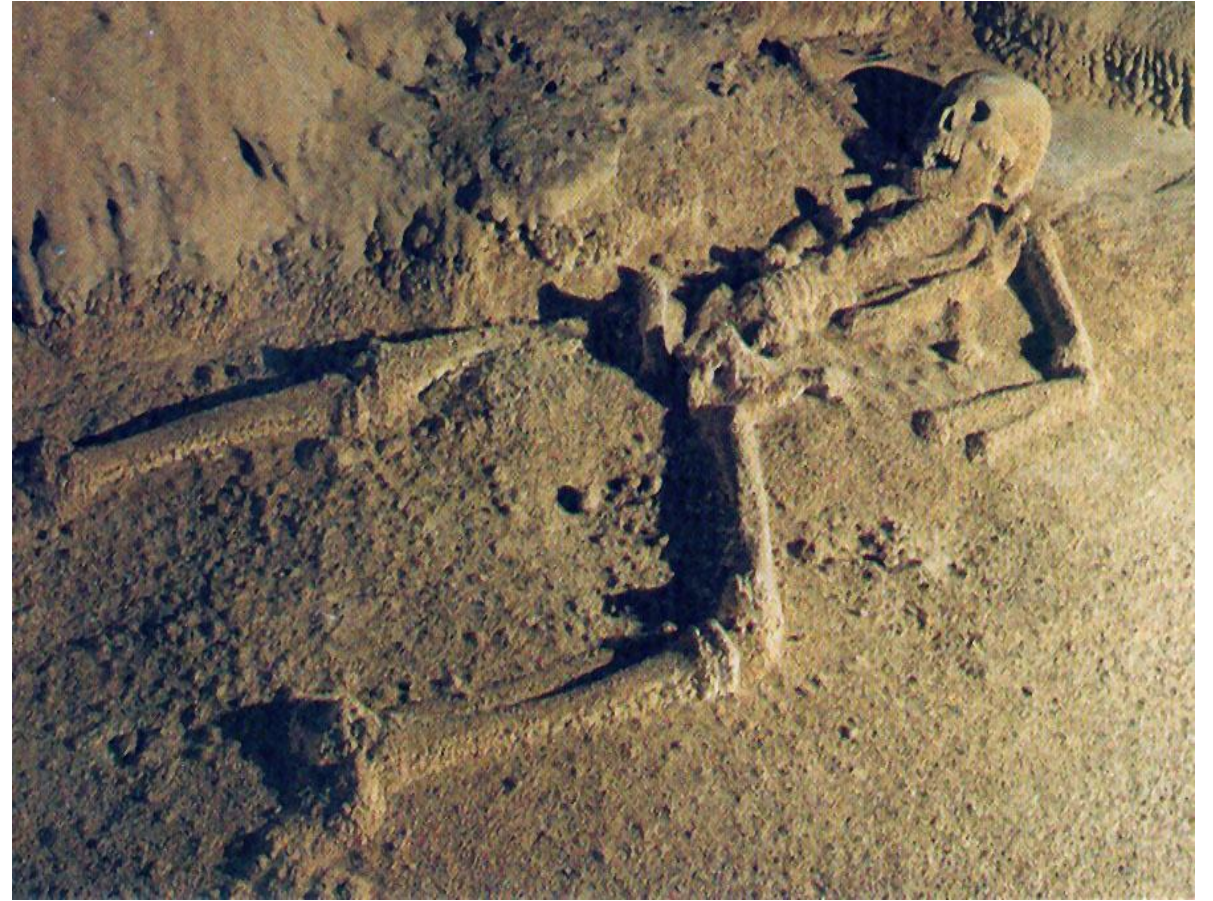
**This bacon is made of rock**



# Caves preserve things that would be destroyed on the earth's surface



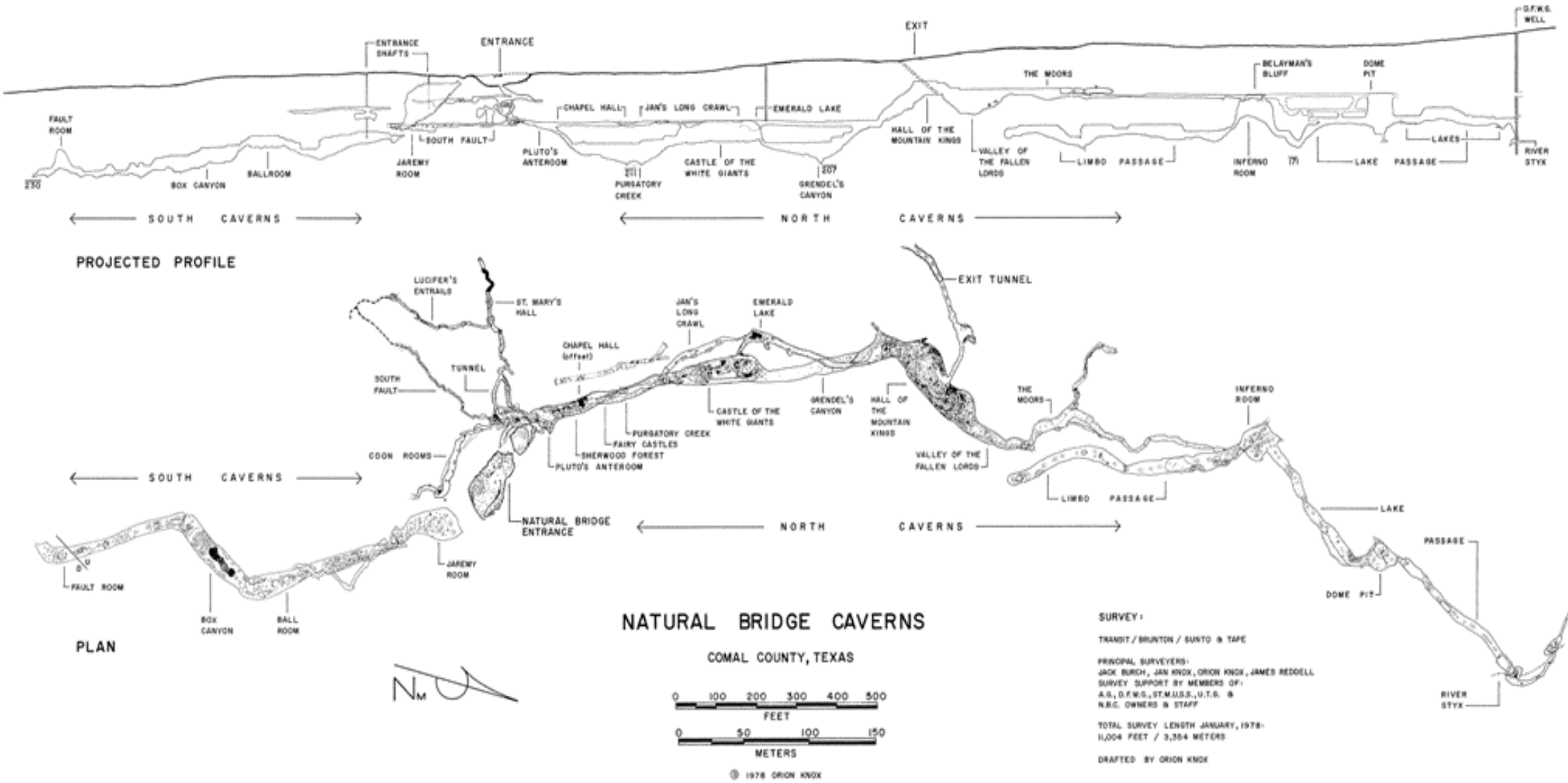
# the Mayans used caves as burial sites



# The entrance to Natural Bridge Caverns



# Map of Natural Bridge Caverns

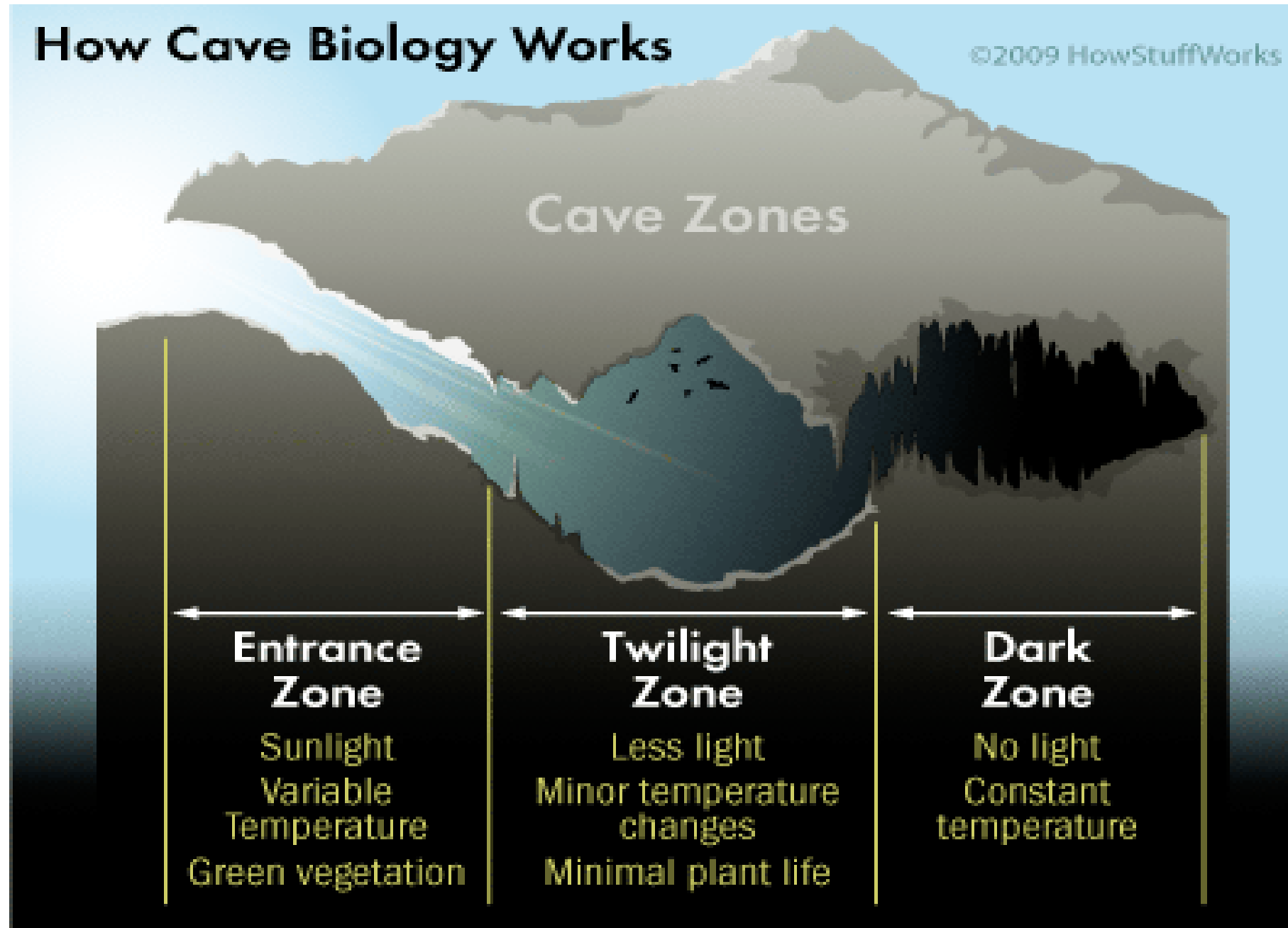


# The cave has many formations



# How Cave Biology Works

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# 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!

