

Lesson 4

READ THIS STORY #2, Advanced

Carlsbad Caverns

When Morris was in New Mexico, he visited Carlsbad Caverns. He had never been in such a strange place, and it was a bit scary to walk on trails that were seven hundred and fifty feet below the surface.

Those who study caverns think a lake originally covered the land. Over time, the land was changed by large quakes. Mountains were formed, and the lake evaporated. Hollow places were formed in soft rocks made of limestone.

Morris walked through huge caverns decorated with amazing formations made by raindrops that had fallen through cracks in the rock. The raindrops picked up minerals in the limestone. When the liquid evaporated, the minerals remained behind as shiny, cone-shaped drips. The cones hanging from the top are called stalactites, while those on the bottom are called stalagmites.