



Charitable Incorporated  
Organisation (CIO) 1154561

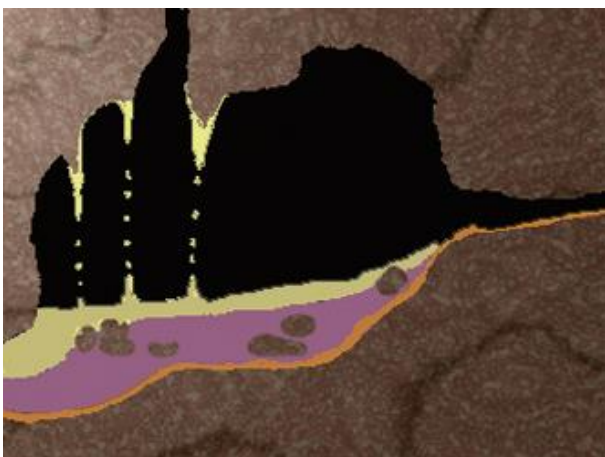
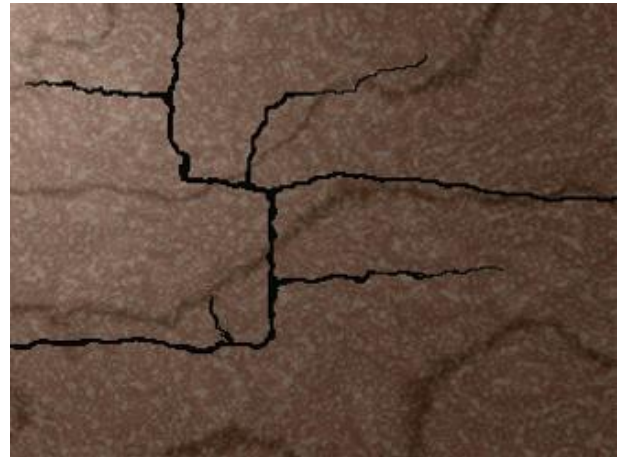
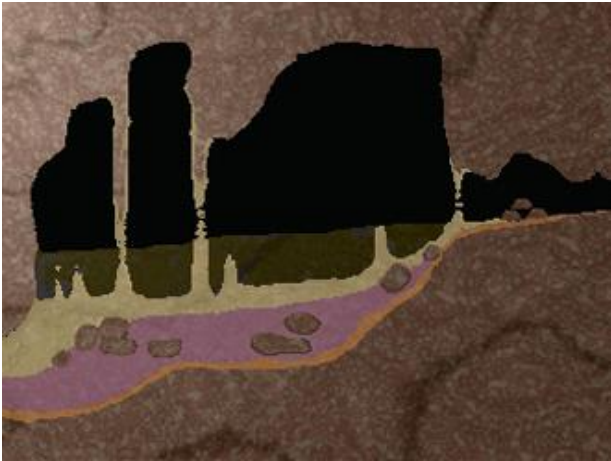
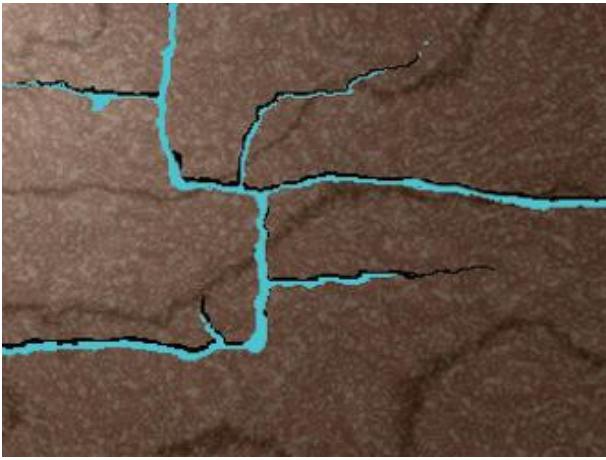
## How caves are formed

This resource comes in two parts and aims to help you understand the **chronology** of how caves are formed.

You have been given some pictures, showing you the stages of how caves are formed, cut them out and arrange them into the order you think they might go in.

You have also been given some information boxes which explain the process of how caves are formed, which box goes with which picture? Try and match them up, then ask an adult to see if you have got them right.





As the process of erosion and filling up of the cave took place, the remains of animals also found their way into the cave and become buried and preserved by the layers of mud and stalagmite. Eventually the process begins to slow down as less and less water trickles through the rock.

Chunks of rock, varying in size, begin to fall from the walls and ceiling of the cave, making the chamber larger. The rocks are covered by the mud and stones that are continuously worked in to form the cave floor.

Limestone dissolved by the trickling water is deposited as stalactites hanging from the ceiling. As the water drips onto the base of the cave, the water is deposited as stalagmites, growing up in layers coating the walls or covering the floor. The layers of stalagmite on the floor can grow very thick and seal the mud and rock underneath.

Small cracks begin to form in the rocks and rainwater gradually seeps through. Weak acids in the water slowly etch away the rock and enlarge the fissures

As time goes on, the level of the water table in the surrounding area drops. Air spaces are formed in the cave as the water reduces. Water still trickles in from the roof and the passageways start getting bigger. As the cracks get bigger, mud and stones wash into the cave and build up on the floor.

The larger fissures in the rock become filled with water, sometimes with immense force. The water swirls about underground gouging out areas of rock and beginning to form passageways.