



Cave Conservation—Why Care?

Research and Role Play

Materials: Article (pg. 8-3) ● Research worksheet (pg. 8-4) ● Research materials: books, magazines, encyclopedias, internet, etc.

As a group, read the article on page 8-3 and answer the discussion questions.

Answers:

1. A cave that may house bats has been discovered. What should happen to the land the cave is on?
2. The farmer/landowner, the developer, and bat biologists.
3. Possible answers: conservationists, spelunkers, neighbors, the government.
4. Possible answers: nothing, the developer could bulldoze it and build a mall there, it could become a research site, it could be opened up to explorers and tourists.

After discussing the article, assign students, either alone or in groups, to each group of people who are interested in the cave (landowner, developer, spelunkers, etc.) and have them research that particular group and its interest in the cave. The groups/students should then present their information to the rest of the class by role-playing the court hearing mentioned in the article:

1. The teacher is the judge and the class will act as a jury.
2. The groups take turns presenting their case to the judge. They should articulate what they believe should happen to the land and why it is the best solution.
3. The “judge” should then lead a discussion with the “jury” as they decide the fate of the land. Who presented the strongest case? What are the pros and cons of each scenario? Is there a compromise?







Name _____

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After reading the following article that recently appeared in The Daily Clarion newspaper, answer the questions about the different groups that have an interest in the sale of this land.



1. What is the controversy in the article?

2. Who are the people involved in the “controversy”?

3. Who else might be interested in the outcome of the case?

4. What are some of the possible things that could be done with the cave?

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Indiana Bats, Kids & Caves - Oh My!



Name _____

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What group are you a part of?

How does your group use caves?

What does your group want to happen to the cave?

List the resources you used:

