**Books read:**

**Big Brown Bear's Cave, by Yuval Zommer, Templar Books (2017), ISBN 9780763696467  
Caves by Kimberly M. Hutmacher, consulting editor Gail Saunders-Smith PhD, Capstone Press (2011), ISBN 9781429650038**

**Connect with local cavers through the Northern Rocky Mountain Grotto:**[**https://nrmg.org/**](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fnrmg.org%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3rBIxiJz0wHV13odsz_gTWhuns65lydTN59mQ6jJpBwqKJgYEdZ1NBiGE&h=AT1t2ZCkOMy7TJ3NFSxrM_zyZWueB_z-t5op-2v9RRwWXpwtGQuYw3CAodkB2krjNboMSUqPFvRjnnoZdbYbM5dUC-znw3a0piJVKZiRO7ephPCUsBrMD-ESi5KDx41nvf_HF33wsBzzQ7XEdQ&c%5b0%5d=AT1Og9zX-8hNabWbK1ulobsJsm3lIpNRUVPSR9dZzKkwMf938PXObBgWEYRVrVNsZE5odrHigJY_xO0z_Y_66BYlEdBU1EzVvxaEMqJAS3IOjTvqkYJK7YzAW3ZGGCoQudm5zQqIkB-1xGI96OxzsvX7vheyQKZuyWtp)

**Check out the National Speleological Society:**[**https://caves.org/**](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fcaves.org%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2WUpAe4J6PjjIUoMxdOXyOXf543XGBWrA-lVuhVhIgfm-sfUloB6Fk9bM&h=AT2UIbVc7PidQJ2oo0fM0H0E-YIXoWvlxf_lUv6RCqRw7eUV-z6UMe4XePtJWXy1y0BatcuZKr1dAvgiv-POlyLc5rRZK48ylX4Pb_PyTRBX_StFq81tN4vyqM6jgEBfPwa6lef1THvOUfJ-hA&c%5b0%5d=AT1Og9zX-8hNabWbK1ulobsJsm3lIpNRUVPSR9dZzKkwMf938PXObBgWEYRVrVNsZE5odrHigJY_xO0z_Y_66BYlEdBU1EzVvxaEMqJAS3IOjTvqkYJK7YzAW3ZGGCoQudm5zQqIkB-1xGI96OxzsvX7vheyQKZuyWtp)

**Explore with the Bigfork Cave Club:**[**http://bigforkhighschoolcaveclub.weebly.com/**](http://bigforkhighschoolcaveclub.weebly.com/?fbclid=IwAR3hcfUu0KZua5mEGlFUD1Si7OdQPX87iUrDZZJ2FLXptu-topcCuzySy2U)[**#OutAndAboutwithImagineIF**](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/outandaboutwithimagineif?__eep__=6&__cft__%5b0%5d=AZV5QEwd_sOTMRPs1ia0zYmJYntdc7IGCMtbJ3_SGmLUHsDQMaWKcdA8Z-bYHv8tfoByRHyqEuN0Jrlr9sO9Xjzdo55VEezH-mS6csF-5y-6SjNO5_RkT3KguIn_4_fk-NK3jpAp_paaIAKrzZxRq4-B)[**#AtHomeWithImagineIF**](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/athomewithimagineif?__eep__=6&__cft__%5b0%5d=AZV5QEwd_sOTMRPs1ia0zYmJYntdc7IGCMtbJ3_SGmLUHsDQMaWKcdA8Z-bYHv8tfoByRHyqEuN0Jrlr9sO9Xjzdo55VEezH-mS6csF-5y-6SjNO5_RkT3KguIn_4_fk-NK3jpAp_paaIAKrzZxRq4-B)[**#InAnActualCaveWithImagineIF**](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/inanactualcavewithimagineif?__eep__=6&__cft__%5b0%5d=AZV5QEwd_sOTMRPs1ia0zYmJYntdc7IGCMtbJ3_SGmLUHsDQMaWKcdA8Z-bYHv8tfoByRHyqEuN0Jrlr9sO9Xjzdo55VEezH-mS6csF-5y-6SjNO5_RkT3KguIn_4_fk-NK3jpAp_paaIAKrzZxRq4-B)

I type the following Facebook comments up in advance, tracking down the links, so I can just rapid-fire copy and paste them into the comment field during the premier showing of a video, trying to time the comments to match the video. Having the comments typed up in advance seems to work well for me, plus I can “comment” while working the desk at the same time.

***Following are the comments that went along with Caving in case you can use them too:***

A silver lining of library pandemic programming: if we can't be inside the libraries with kids, then we might as well be outside! If you like this approach (sometimes called "we don't need no stinkin' green screen), then check out other "Out and About With ImagineIF" videos on our YouTube channel's playlist! <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLq2Y-hKt55WNw41OnZOqsbDwqgXWyUwTh>

If you like "Big Brown Bear's Cave" by Yuval Zommer (or would like other caving books for kids), go to our website or give us a call and use our new "personal shopper" service. You tell us your interests and we'll pick out books and get them ready for you to pick up!  <https://imagineiflibraries.org/shopper/>

You can also put physical books on hold directly yourself with your library card: <https://mtsc.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/IMAGINE/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:2453410/one?qu=Big+Brown+Bear%27s+Cave&te=IMAGINE&lm=PARTNERS1>

One of the hardest things for me about these virtual storytimes is that I miss dialogic reading with kids. That's when the kids help me tell the story. It is an interaction between the reader and the audience. It builds vocabulary, comprehension, and strengthens many other early literacy skills. Luckily you can work on this with your child at home with any book! Here's why it works and hints on how to start:   <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/dialogic-reading-effective-way-read-aloud-young-children>

While dialogically reading "Big Brown Bear's Cave" I ask kids, "Do you see what Big Brown Bear thinks are human caves?" Even if you don't have a garage or shed of your own, the next time you see an open garage door with stuff crammed inside it,  together you can recall the story (a memory exercise in itself) and reinforce new vocabulary words.

Another dialogical question I'd ask is, "Do you think all this stuff will make Big Brown Bear happy?" Predicting what happens next is a great aid when kids are learning to read on their own as well as boosting their critical thinking skills.

More vocabulary building opportunities here! Ask the child to name some of the things that Big Brown Bear has put in his cave. Then offer up some yourself! See if they can say the new words as you teach them. Have a "dialog"!

I think I might wear caving gloves to turn pages in books all the time! So grippy!

It sure would be handy to be able to find your way around in the dark using your nose!

Here is a link to some of the scientists that study animals found in caves. These are local kids who have twice received national awards from US Presidents, the President's Environmental Youth Award!   <http://bigforkhighschoolcaveclub.weebly.com/>

Singing songs with kids helps them learn to listen to the syllables and rhymes in words. Making up new verses (and actions) to songs they already know takes their storytelling and memorization skills to the next level, and is just silly fun!

Here's a link about early literacy benefits found in singing with kids: <https://www.songsforteaching.com/lb/literacymusic.htm>

Any kind of helmet works. Use a bicycle or ski helmet with a headlamp duct taped to it, but wear helmets! Also (not shown) are my knee pads! ?

Check out some kid's non-fiction ebooks about caving right now with your library card on our Hoopla service! Hoopla titles are always available and never overdue!

I love the way sounds in the cave echo, especially in this larger area by the water.

My book went on to mention caves in New Zealand and lava tubes. If you want to find out what I skipped, find out conveniently here on Hoopla, right now! <https://www.hoopladigital.com/title/13421528>

Kids can be great cavers. They are smallish humans who have recent experience in crawling! These tunnels remind me so much of the tunnels at a playground. Once we can have in person programming again at the library, talk to me about getting your family started with caving.

Now I'll hit you with some additional links if you want to learn more now:

Not local, but an amazing program if you ever happen upon one. It does travel around: <https://www.cavesim.com/>

Our local grotto. These are wonderful people <https://nrmg.org/>

And here is a very recent YouTube video by the Bigfork HS Cave Club, "Keeping Cave". This club is the one who, in the past, took core samples from packrat nests for carbon dating. Just one among many of their other cave conservation/observation methods. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTynbHRY3pQ>

And here's a link to The Big Fib, a podcast that helps older kids with critical thinking and evaluating information. In this episode, one of these cave "experts" is lying, can you tell which one?

<https://www.stitcher.com/show/pants-on-fire-2/episode/caves-76555666>

If you want to do the flowstone rock craft, you will need some old crayons (peel the paper off), rocks, aluminum foil, a baking tray, an oven, a hot pad, and newspaper or cardboard to protect your work surface.

Wash the rocks and put them on foil on the tray and warm them in the oven at around 190-200 deg F for 15-30 minutes. Take the rocks out when they are warm using the hot pad and put them on the newspaper or cardboard. Remind little fingers to not touch the hot rock and have them use the crayons to draw on the rock. The waxy crayons colors will melt and flow, creating your own flowstone similar to what we found in our cave.