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| **Living in caves is fun  By Christophe GILLIOT** |  | http://www.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/edhelp1.gif |

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**Directions:**  Fill in each blank with the word that best completes the reading comprehension.  
  
     Humans have always lived in caves. Before man could build shelters, natural caves served as protection against the elements, enemies, and wild animals. Some of the most famous natural caves, the Lascaux Caves in southwestern France, are famous for their prehistoric paintings.  
     Throughout French history and especially during Roman colonization, men *(1)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   *(2)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   of soft rock to extract stones that they used in the construction of different types of buildings. In many areas of France, men dug smaller caves into the soft rock and turned them into homes, also called troglodytes, especially in the Loire Valley between the village of Gennes and the town of Saumur.  
     Living in caves was very practical for many reasons. First, it allowed farmers to *(3)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   more land because not only did the farmer live underground, but his stables and barns were underground as well. The fields were above these buildings. Second, farmers could make money by selling the extracted stones. Third, caves provided shelter in case of danger. In France, Vikings' raids were common and extremely feared by local populations who took shelter in these caves.  
     All of this cave digging gave birth to thousands of miles of galleries and caves dug underground. Between Gennes and Saumur this chalk-type rock is called tuffeau. There are so many caves in this small area that the underground looks like Swiss cheese! In fact, this causes problems in the region because the ground becomes unstable. Imagine walking in the forest only to have the ground give way below your feet. The castle of Saumur almost collapsed because heavy rains made the caves underneath it *(4)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . The castle wall had to be completely rebuilt and reinforced.  
     Unfortunately, this type of *(5)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   was abandoned at the end of the 19th century because it was considered a sign of poverty to live in caves. *(6)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  , the caves weren't completely abandoned.  
     Some *(7)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   learned how to use the *(8)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   *(9)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   and temperature of caves to their advantage. First, the *(10)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   *(11)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   was very important until the end of the *(12)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   century. Button and oyster *(13)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   were cultivated in the many galleries dug along the Loire River between Gennes and Saumur. Today the mushroom industry has left the *(14)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  , but the caves *(15)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   very important for wine producers, especially for aging sparkling wine.  
     Today troglodyte homes have become trendy, fashionable, and expensive for tourists looking for original lodging and also for people wanting to buy and live in them. There are many advantages of having a troglodyte home. It is energy efficient because there is no insulation needed. The constant temperature of caves means that there is no need for air conditioning in the summer and little heating is needed in the winter. Caves are easy to *(16)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . French laws make it *(17)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   to dig and make them bigger if you need more room in your *(18)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . Finally, modern technologies allow caves to have the same comfort as in normal homes. Living in caves is fun! Most are hundreds of years old, and they have a unique and cozy charm.

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1. | Only prehistoric people lived in caves. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  False http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  True | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 2. | In what type of rock is it better to dig galleries? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  In volcanic rock http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  In hard rock http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  In soft rock http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  In granite | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 3. | The author compares the region with Swiss cheese. Explain why. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 4. | Why was it practical to live in caves? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  You could hide. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  You didn't waste land. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  You could make money with the extracted stone. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  All of the above | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 5. | Underground homes have always been a sign of wealth. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  False http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  True | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 6. | Why are caves adapted for mushroom cultivation and aging sparkling wines? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  They have constant temperature and humidity. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  They are deep and icy. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  They are warm and dry. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  They are humid and hot. | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 7. | What are the advantages of living in caves today? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  It is cheap and small. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  It has charm and is comfortable. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  It is isolated and dark. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  It is original and energy efficient. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblee.jpg  Both B and D are correct. | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 8. | Caves have charm but don't have modern technology. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  False http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  True | |

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| **Answer Key** |

     Humans have always lived in caves. Before man could build shelters, natural caves served as protection against the elements, enemies, and wild animals. Some of the most famous natural caves, the Lascaux Caves in southwestern France, are famous for their prehistoric paintings.  
     Throughout French history and especially during Roman colonization, men ***(1)*  exploited** ***(2)*  quarries** of soft rock to extract stones that they used in the construction of different types of buildings. In many areas of France, men dug smaller caves into the soft rock and turned them into homes, also called troglodytes, especially in the Loire Valley between the village of Gennes and the town of Saumur.  
     Living in caves was very practical for many reasons. First, it allowed farmers to ***(3)*  exploit** more land because not only did the farmer live underground, but his stables and barns were underground as well. The fields were above these buildings. Second, farmers could make money by selling the extracted stones. Third, caves provided shelter in case of danger. In France, Vikings' raids were common and extremely feared by local populations who took shelter in these caves.  
     All of this cave digging gave birth to thousands of miles of galleries and caves dug underground. Between Gennes and Saumur this chalk-type rock is called tuffeau. There are so many caves in this small area that the underground looks like Swiss cheese! In fact, this causes problems in the region because the ground becomes unstable. Imagine walking in the forest only to have the ground give way below your feet. The castle of Saumur almost collapsed because heavy rains made the caves underneath it ***(4)*  unstable**. The castle wall had to be completely rebuilt and reinforced.  
     Unfortunately, this type of ***(5)*  housing** was abandoned at the end of the 19th century because it was considered a sign of poverty to live in caves. ***(6)*  However**, the caves weren't completely abandoned.  
     Some ***(7)*  industries** learned how to use the ***(8)*  constant** ***(9)*  humidity** and temperature of caves to their advantage. First, the ***(10)*  mushroom** ***(11)*  industry** was very important until the end of the ***(12)*  twentieth** century. Button and oyster ***(13)*  mushrooms** were cultivated in the many galleries dug along the Loire River between Gennes and Saumur. Today the mushroom industry has left the ***(14)*  region**, but the caves ***(15)*  remain** very important for wine producers, especially for aging sparkling wine.  
     Today troglodyte homes have become trendy, fashionable, and expensive for tourists looking for original lodging and also for people wanting to buy and live in them. There are many advantages of having a troglodyte home. It is energy efficient because there is no insulation needed. The constant temperature of caves means that there is no need for air conditioning in the summer and little heating is needed in the winter. Caves are easy to ***(16)*  enlarge**. French laws make it ***(17)*  possible** to dig and make them bigger if you need more room in your ***(18)*  house**. Finally, modern technologies allow caves to have the same comfort as in normal homes. Living in caves is fun! Most are hundreds of years old, and they have a unique and cozy charm.

Answers to Reading Comprehension Questions  
  
**1**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  False  
**2**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  In soft rock  
**3**  The caves and galleries dug underground are so close to each other that you find holes everywhere.  
**4**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  All of the above  
**5**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  False  
**6**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  They have constant temperature and humidity.  
**7**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblee.jpg  Both B and D are correct.  
**8**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  False