

# DANIEL AND MARISSA LEARN ABOUT CAVE ANIMALS

Daniel and Marissa sat outside a cave entrance with their uncle Jorge and his friends. They are **spelunkers**. Spelunkers are



people who like to explore caves. Their uncle was taking them spelunking for the first time. They were so excited the day before they had a hard time falling asleep. But now they felt uneasy. They were trying to eat lunch but they felt a little queasy.

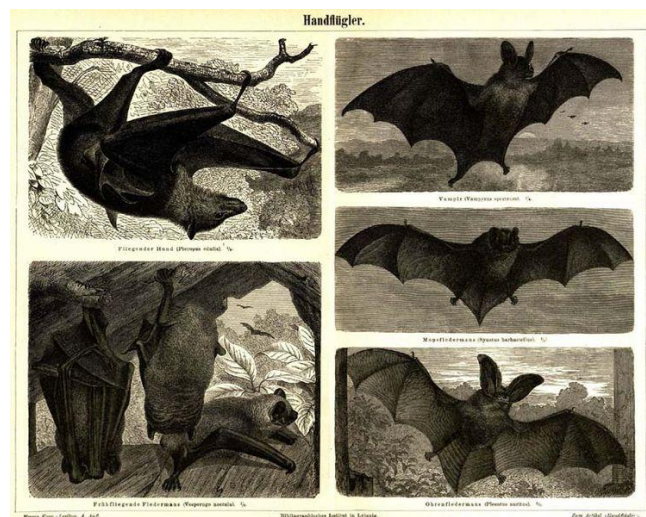
“Do animals live inside caves?” asked Daniel a little nervously.

“Of course,” replied Uncle Jorge. “Cave animals have special names. These special names come from the Greek word **troglo**. Troglo means cave.

**Trogloxenes** are animals that use caves for shelter but they always stay near the entrance. Bats and bears are troglloxenes.”

“Bats and bears?” cried Marissa. Uncle Jorge laughed.

“There aren’t any bears living in this cave. Bats are **nocturnal** animals. They sleep all day and stay out all night. Even if we wake a few up, they won’t do us any harm,” he explained.



"What other kinds of animals live in caves?" asked Daniel.

"Well," said Uncle Jorge. "**Troglophiles** are animals that prefer to



live in caves but they can survive outside a cave as well. Some types of salamanders are troglophiles. The phile in troglophile means love. So, they **love caves.**"

Daniel and Marissa thought this was funny.

"The last type is called

**troglobite,**" Uncle Jorge said.

Daniel was wide-eyed. "Do they bite?" he asked nervously.

"No," Uncle Jorge laughed. "They are animals that are **adapted** to a cave environment. They can't survive outside a cave. Because it is so dark in a cave, many don't even have eyes."



"No eyes?" gasped Daniel.

"They don't need them," answered his uncle. "They use their other senses to survive. The other senses are smell, touch, hearing and taste."

Daniel and Marissa felt much better after learning about the types of animals that live in a cave. They happily finished their lunch and couldn't wait to explore the cave.

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## **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STORY**

Why were Daniel and Marissa nervous?

Do you remember what troglo means?

Can you name some trogloxenes?

Where do troglaphiles prefer to live?

What do you think **adapted** means in this sentence? "They are animals that are **adapted** to a cave environment."

Why are eyes unnecessary in cave dwelling animals?

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