

# Tools and Resources for Cave and Karst Education

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## Abstract

Teachers and environmental educators must have educational tools and material so they can teach about cave and karst resources. Educating the public about karst resources should include the importance of karst watersheds to drinking water supplies and introduce caves as unique habitats. The making of the IMAX film on caving will increase the demand for cave education materials tremendously. This paper will focus on some of the tools and resources available to help teach about the unique cave and karst environments to various audiences. Sources include a karst groundwater model, Project Underground and Living on Karst.

The karst groundwater model demonstrates groundwater properties and the spread of pollution. This includes how runoff from trash in sinkholes can show up in drinking water supplies. This plexiglass table-top model will be demonstrated during the presentation.

The Project Underground Karst Education Program offers classroom materials for kindergarten through 12th grade students. Training workshops provide lesson plans and background information to the teachers. These hands on, discovery-based activities meet the science teaching standards in most states.

The book, *Living On Karst – A Reference Guide for Landowners in Limestone Regions*, was developed to help residents of karst areas become aware of how day-to-day activities affect the groundwater and fragile ecosystems of their karst regions.

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