

Cave Construction Kit

This kit includes five full-page background cave scenes and a lavish collection of cave clip art with which to decorate the rooms. Without all pretty the rock formations, rooms in a bare cave look much the same. That means with just these five backgrounds, and the clip art your students can create unlimited numbers of unique cave pictures!

I've included one example scene I made by adding clip art to the **Cave Side** background. With the wide selection of cave formations, you are only limited by your imagination in quickly creating spectacular cave scenes. Besides serving as a fun and creative art activity, the **Cave Construction Kit** can be the catalyst for writing a great cave story!

From this...



...to this!

Just add
clip art!



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Cave Backgrounds folder

There are five unique cave images in this folder. These are full-page jpg files you can use for the background of each cave scene. There is a large cave room with an opening in the back, two smaller rooms, a cave wall perhaps in a connecting tunnel, and one cave room with a pool in it. Sneaky trick: If your application lets you, you could flip these horizontally for more variety in your backgrounds.



Cave Formations clip art

Notice there are three separate folders for different kinds of cave formations. These are **Large Formations**, **Stubs and Bases**, and **Stalactites or Stalagmites**. The clip art is in .gif format and should load into most applications cleanly, with no background around it.

Some graphics programs may not let you mix gifs with the jpg background images. If you run into that, see if there is a way to set the clip art for RGB color, or re-save each gif as jpg.

Large Formations

In this folder are groups of stalactites and stalagmites that have grown together to form columns and other complex

shapes, and wide pieces of flowstone, often looking like curtains or waterfalls. You might want to add some of these first to form a backdrop for other formations.



Stubs and Bases

There are two types of rock formations in this folder. Bases are fairly flat bits that would be at the base of a stalagmite or at the top of a stalactite. Of course you could put some anywhere in the cave. Maybe it's a spot where the formations are just starting! Or these could be where something has broken off.

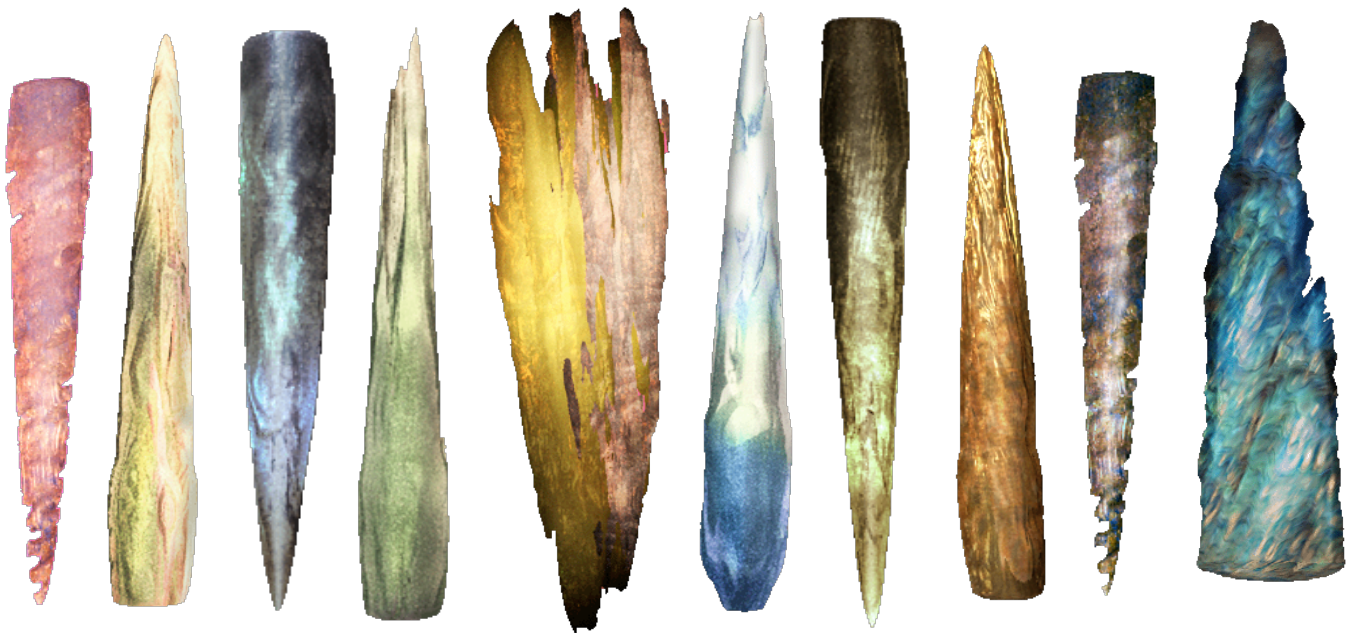


The stubs are just that: short, blunt little stalactites (or they could be baby stalagmites!) If they are used as stalactites, they will hang down from the ceiling or a part of the wall that

is sticking out. You might put in a long stalactite and have little stubs beside it. If a stub is a stalagmite, it will stick up from the floor. Often there is a stalactite right above it, dripping the mineral-rich liquid that builds up the stalagmites below.

Stalactites and Stalagmites

This folder has everyone's favorite rock formations, stalactites and stalagmites. I have given you more of them than all the rest. Any one of them could be a stalactite or a stalagmite, depending on which way you flip it. Use them alone, or line up a group of them! Make a column by putting one on the ceiling that touches its twin coming up from the floor. Mix colors, too. Often in a cave, water seeping down has different colored minerals in different areas.



Which goes up and which hangs down?

The names are similar, and people have to use a couple of tricks to remember which is which. First of all, stalactites have a "c" and hang from the ceiling, while stalagmites have a "g" and grow up from the ground. The mnemonic that always makes people laugh is: The mites run up and the tites come down. Just be sure students don't spell it "stalactights" !

Tricks and Tips

- 👉 To make a **column**, put a stalactite coming down that meets a stalagmite coming up. If you erase a teeny bit, you can join these up so nobody knows you started with two separate bits of clip art.
- 👉 Put a stalactite above a stub made of similar stone. Try setting them so there is just a little space between the two tips. That's *ALMOST* a column!
- 👉 Have a fallen stalactite. Prop it up on a stub!
- 👉 Change the sizes so that the formations are not all the same size. If you adjust the width but not the height, you can make skinnier or thicker formations.
- 👉 Pile up several bases to make a platform. There might be a stalagmite starting to grow up out of it, or it might be connected to a flowstone curtain.

IntelliTools Classroom Suite®

It is easy to change the shape in this application, because in **Properties** you just write in different numbers for **Horizontal** and **Vertical**. You also can **Rotate** the formation a little to make it lean. Try different colors in **Colorize** for wild effects! Set **Design Layers** to make things stay on top of or behind other items.

HyperStudio®

Depending on what you have in **Preferences**, the art can load as a selection or as a graphic object. You should **Flatten** a graphic object to change its proportions, then **Convert** it back to a graphic object. Right-click to open the legacy **Image Effects**, and see what you can do with **Texturizer** and **Emboss**. Be sure you have **Emboss** set for color! Then try the **Effects** tool with either **Antique** or **Invert** effects.

Clicker

If possible, work on your cave scene in Clicker Paint®. In Clicker® itself, you could put clip art in individual cells to move around on a grid with one of the cave backgrounds.

Graphic Programs

If you have PhotoShop®, GIMP, or any other graphic program, you can do even more variations on the cave backgrounds and clip art. Try to work in layers, at least while you are working on the scene, so you can change things around easily.

Off Computer

It might be fun to print out the backgrounds and clip art and use them off computer. Try laminating both the background pictures and cave formations. Stick them on with removable adhesive pads.

Finish Up

When you get everything just where you want it in a cave picture, lock each formation or flatten everything into the background. Soon you will have enough scenes to make an interesting cave. Link them together for a virtual spelunking expedition or use them to illustrate a story! You can add other clip art, too. How about some bats? Perhaps some white cave fish? How about pictographs on the cave wall? It's your story, and there could be treasure or a monster in that cave!

Do Some Research

To see what real cave formations look like, take a trip through a virtual cave! Go to <http://www.goodearthgraphics.com/virtcave/index.html> The **Cave Construction Kit** builds a cave like the Solution Caves you see on this site. Be sure to look at the photos of individual types of cave formations to get ideas for your cave scenes. Also take a look at the section on cave life, to find out about what might live in your cave.



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