

Cave Conservation—Why Care?

Research and Role Play

Materials: Article (pg. 8-3) ● Research worksheet (pg. 8-4) ● Research materials: books, magazines, encyclopedias, internet, etc.

As a group, read the article on page 8-3 and answer the discussion questions.

Answers:

- 1. A cave that may house bats has been discovered. What should happen to the land the cave is on?
- 2. The farmer/landowner, the devoloper, and bat biologists.
- 3. Possible answers: conservationists, spelunkers, neighbors, the government.
- 4. Possible answers: nothing, the developer could bulldoze it and build a mall there, it could become a research site, it could be opened up to explorers and tourists.

After discussing the article, assign students, either alone or in groups, to each group of people who are interested in the cave (landowner, developer, spelunkers, etc.) and have them research that particular group and its interest in the cave. The groups/students should then present their information to the rest of the class by role-playing the court hearing mentioned in the article:

- 1. The teacher is the judge and the class will act as a jury.
- 2. The groups take turns presenting their case to the judge. They should articulate what they believe should happen to the land and why it is the best solution.
- 3. The "judge" should then lead a discussion with the "jury" as they decide the fate of the land. Who presented the strongest case? What are the pros and cons of each scenario? Is there a compromise?



Indiana Bats, Kids & Caves - Oh My!

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After reading the following article that recently appeared in The Daily Clarion newspaper, answer the questions about the different groups that have an interest in the sale of this land.

Saturday, September 8, 2007

Cave Discovery Fuels Contr

EVANSVILLE - Paul Glen, happen to the land. owner of forty acres at 123 N. County Rd., came under Glen, who is selling off endangered Indiana bats never saw any bats." and the discovery of a small cave on the land.

Surveyor Michael Earth, a she's not

fire yesterday for wanting most of his land so he can to sell to local developer, retire from farming, claims Ima Builder owner of that "since the boys have Buildamall, Inc. who told grown and moved away, I reporters that the deal has haven't gone out hunting. been delayed because of I didn't even know there sightings of federally was a cave there, and I

Luna Wing, a bat biologist at Big University, says surprised. member of Bat "Indiana bats are very Conservation small They fly at night and International, found the the traffic in and out of the cave and sighted the bats. cave would have Earth called the U.S. Fish happened mostly in the and Wildlife Service and spring and fall when Mr. the Vanderburgh Co. Glen was planting and Conservation Office. A harvesting." She goes on hearing has been to say that the bats are scheduled for next week to most likely using the cave decide what should as a hibernaculum, a place

- 1. What is the controversy in the article?
- 2. Who are the people involved in the "controversy"?
- The 3. Who else might be interested in the outcome of the case?
- bel 4. What are some of the possible things that could be done with the cave?

Generated using: The Newspaper Clipping Generator www.fodey.com/generators/ newspaper/snippet.asp September 8, 2007







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What group are you a part of?	
How does your group use caves?	
What does your group want to happen to the cave?	
List the resources you used:	
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