

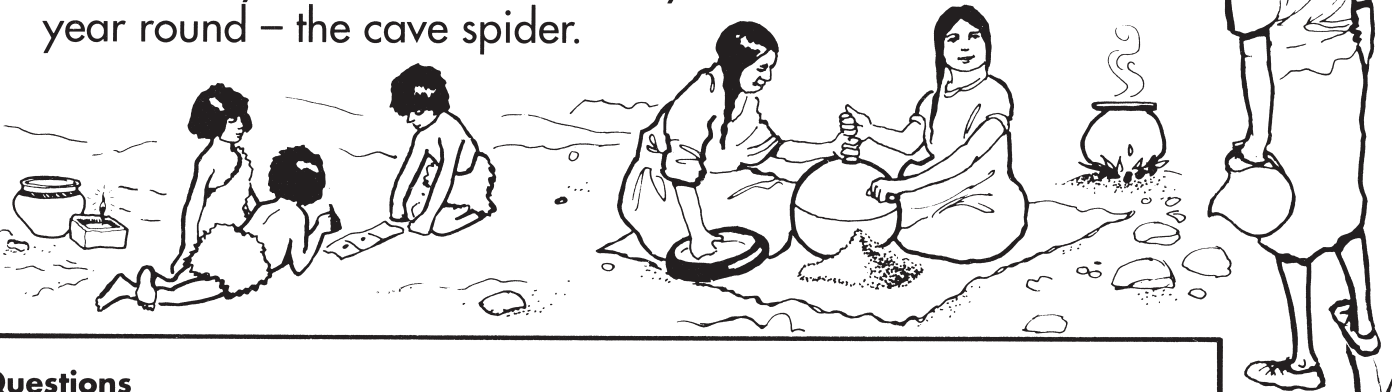
CAVES AS HOMES

For people in ancient times, the caves at Wookey Hole were a safe and even comfortable place to live. They were dry, easy to defend, warm in winter and cool in summer.

Families of Iron Age people used the caves for more than six hundred years. They lived near the entrance where it was still quite light. They burnt animal fat in simple lamps to explore deeper into the caverns. They reached as far as Chamber 4 which they used as a burial chamber.

Outside the caves the woods were good for hunting and the Iron Age farmers grew grain, peas and beans on the hillsides. They also kept pigs, goats, sheep and cattle. Sometimes these animals would have shared the caves with the people.

Today the caves are home to different animals. Horseshoe bats hibernate in the caves during the winter and sleep there at other times of the year. There are no fish but divers have seen frogs, eels and freshwater shrimps in the underground waters. Insects such as moths and mosquitoes spend their winters in the caves. They are food for the only creature that lives there all year round – the cave spider.



Questions

1. For people in _____ times, the caves at Wookey Hole were a _____ and even _____ place to live.
2. The caves were _____ in winter and _____ in summer.
3. The Iron Age people used Chamber 4 as a _____ chamber.
4. Name the animals that the Iron Age farmers kept.

5. What type of bats hibernate in the caves? _____
6. The _____ is the only creature that lives in the caves all year round.