



Presented by Ms. Becky Craig

## **May's Topic: CAVES**

- Missouri is known as the cave state. There are over 7,000 identified caves.
- Caves have zones, and different animals utilize these zones.
- The entrance zone is similar to the outside but provides shelter for raccoons, opossums, foxes and the early humans.
- The twilight is sheltered from direct sunlight and is used by salamanders, bats and bears. These animals go outside the cave to find food.
- The dark zone provides no light at all. Animals in this zone find food within the cave and may never venture outside. Therefore they have little or no coloration, and may not even have eyes. They include millipedes, spiders, blind cavefish, cave crayfish and the grotto salamander.
- Stalactites grow by depositing minerals as water drips from the ceiling of a cave. Stalagmites grow by depositing minerals on the cave floor when water drips on it.