



# Mammoth Cave: US

## Why in News

Recently, the **official length of Mammoth Cave has been extended to 420 miles.**



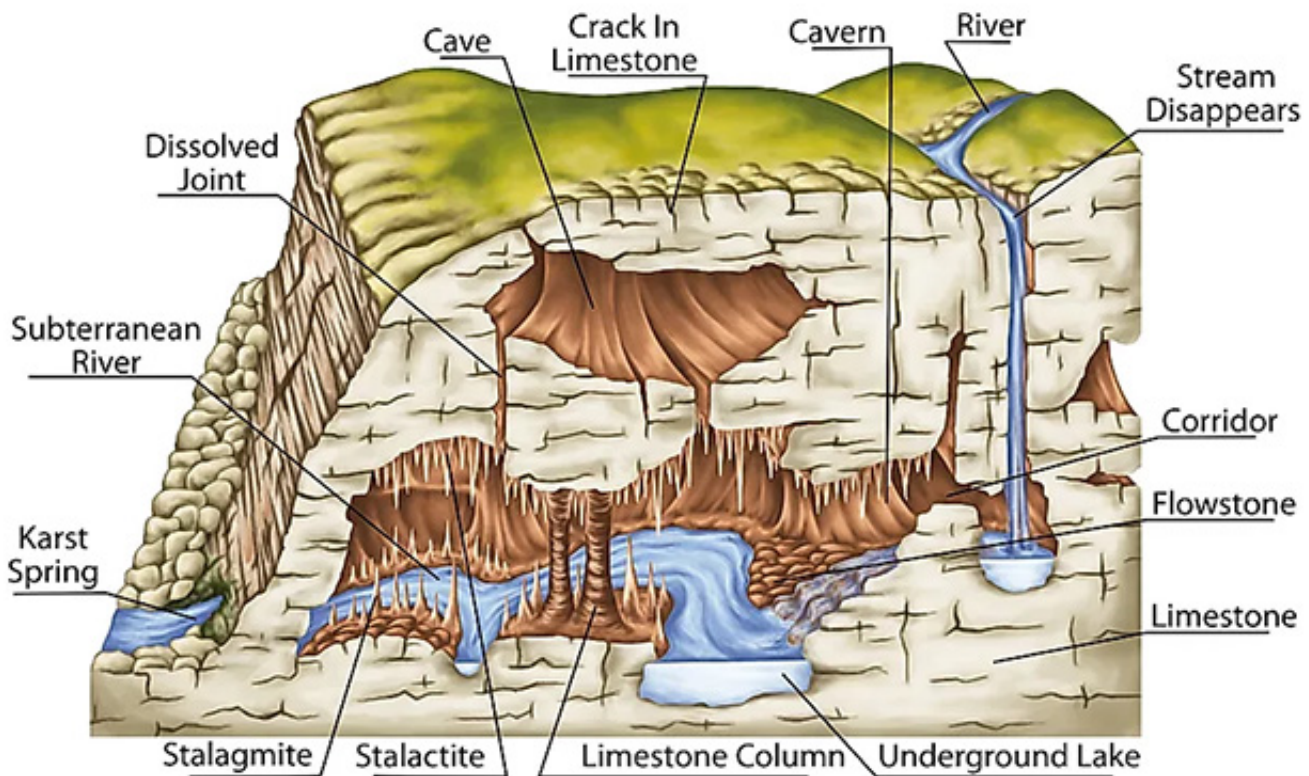
## Key Points

- The **additional mileage (8 miles)** was mapped and **documented by the Cave Research Foundation.**
- **Mammoth Cave National Park**, located in the state of **Kentucky (US)**, has the **world's largest network of natural caves and underground passageways**, which are characteristic examples of **limestone formations (karst topography)**.
  - It is a [World Heritage Site](#) (designated in 1981).
  - It became an **International Biosphere Reserve in 1990.**

## Karst Topography

- It is a **type of landscape where the dissolving of the bedrock has created sinkholes, sinking streams, caves, springs**, and other characteristic features.
- Karst is **associated with soluble rock types** such as limestone, marble, and gypsum.

- In general, a typical karst landscape **forms** when much of the water falling on the surface interacts with and enters the subsurface through cracks, fractures, and holes that have been dissolved into the bedrock.
  - After traveling underground, sometimes for long distances, this water is then discharged from springs, many of which are cave entrances.



Source: IE

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