

Pre Visit Preparations:

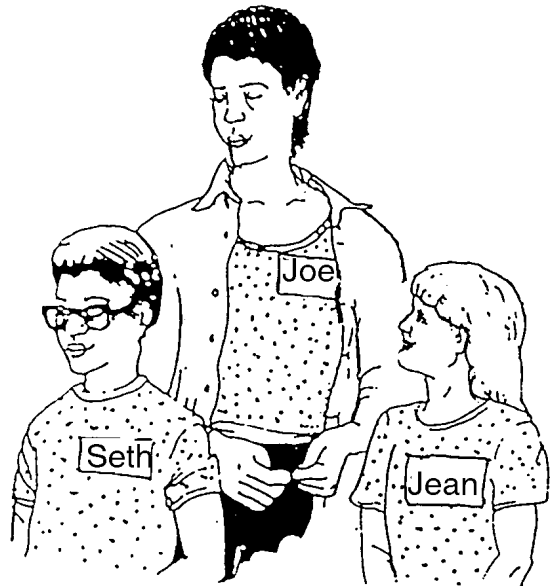
Nametags - Who Am I?

Objective: Students will explore the concept of ecosystem and extend it to the three main Wind Cave ecosystems. They will learn about members of these ecosystems and the roles they play.

Procedure: Students will make and illustrate a nametag. They should select a Wind Cave National Park ecosystem community member from the list below to illustrate their nametag. In addition to making the nametag, the students should learn something about the community member they selected.

Suggested Name Tag List:

Bison	Fire
Mule Deer	Prairie Dog
Badger	Coyote
Water	Cave Boxwork
Ponderosa Pine	Pasqueflower
Elk	Cottontail Rabbit
Moth	Bluebird
Butterfly	Eagle
Meadowlark	Bones
Cave	Woodpecker
Lichen	Buffalo Grass
Prairie Rattlesnake	Bumble Bee
Grasshoppers	Little Blue Stem Grass
Bull Snake	Blue Grama Grass
Great Homed Owl	Limestone
Bat	Juniper Tree
Soil	Wind Cave Visitor
Black-footed Ferret	Scat
Chokecherry	Decayed Plants



Students should arrive knowing that there are three main ecosystems at Wind Cave National Park: the prairie, the forest, and the cave. Have the students imagine that they are their ecosystem member and ask them why they are found at Wind Cave National Park. Also, discuss which ecosystem they live in or if they might use all of the ecosystems. Ask the students to think of one change and one constant their ecosystem member might go through at the park. What are some seasonal changes that they might go through? How are they part of a natural cycle? Are they ever affected by the actions of humans?