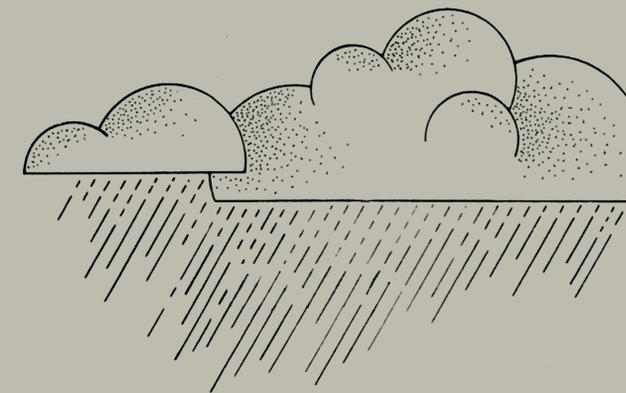




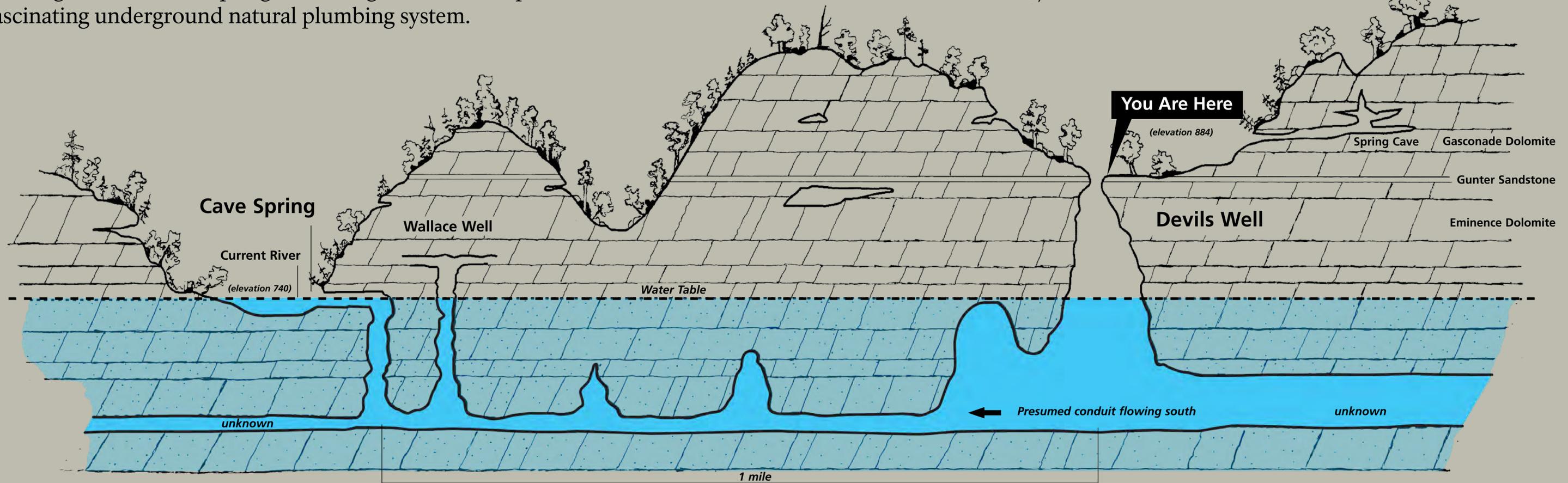
# Water at Work

Water is essential to the Ozarks, a region world-famous for its karst topography as shown by large springs, clear streams, natural bridges, sinkholes and caves. Water is needed for plant and animal life. Over long periods of time water has been the dominant force shaping the landscape of the Missouri Ozarks.

The waters you are about to see in Devils Well are part of the supply system for Cave Spring on the Current River. Lying deep below the surface, the system is still in the process of growing. The Well and Spring are among the best examples of Missouri's fascinating underground natural plumbing system.



*Rain becomes groundwater as it seeps below the surface through open pores and cracks in rock.*



## Origin of Missouri Caves and Springs

Hundreds of millions of years ago, this stone called dolomite, similar to limestone, formed beneath warm shallow seas that covered this part of Missouri. This was the very start of Devils Well. In time, forces from

inside the earth pushed up the sea bottom and exposed the rock layers to millions of years of erosion. Rainfall circulating through cracks in the rock enlarged them and created water-filled cavities. These cavities became

larger water filled spring supply systems. Gravity forces the water to move downhill and eventually resurface as springs. The water you see in Devils Well will surface at Cave Spring a mile away.