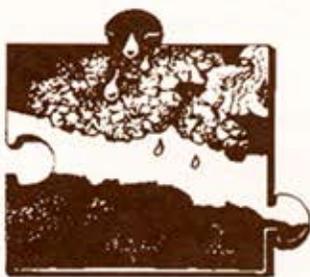


## Ages 10 to 12 WATER IS IMPORTANT TO WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK

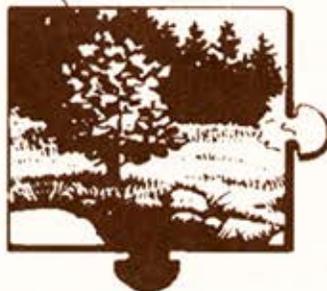
Wind Cave National Park has many parts. Fitting all these parts together can be puzzling! It is important to understand how everything fits together so we can protect the park. While walking on the prairie you may forget there could be a cave below. Although the cave is hidden, our activities on the surface affect it. Water is one connecting link.

At Wind Cave National Park we study the water's journey. On its journey, water is used by plants and animals, flows away in streams, or evaporates. The remaining water seeps into the ground. Some of it travels into the cave. Once in the cave, the water may create crystals or become part of the park's drinking water. Rangers test the water in the cave for pollution that may be caused by activities above it. Visitors can protect the cave by remembering that anything dumped in the campground or elsewhere in the park may end up in the cave.

Draw lines to put each puzzle piece in its correct place.



1	2	3
4	5	6



All of the resources in the park have things that can affect them or their habitat. Answer the questions below. Answers may be found in the upper-level visitor center exhibit room.

1. There are harmful weeds in prairie areas over the cave that could destroy the habitat for native grasses. Why don't we spray herbicides to remove them? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Without fire, there could be too many pine trees in the park. How could too many trees affect the water for the cave, the prairie, or the animals of the park? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_