



 **MAJESTIC CAVERNS**

8TH GRADE ACADEMIC FIELD STUDY PACKET

Aligned to Alabama Course of Study Standards

Student Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Date of Visit: _____

PRE-VISIT INQUIRY

Essential Question

How does geography shape both natural systems and the development of civilizations?

Before your visit to Majestic Caverns, respond to the questions below.

Part 1: Natural Systems

1. How does water shape land over time?

2. How might elevation changes affect energy transfer?

3. Why do you think cave environments are able to preserve artifacts better than open environments?

Part 2: Human Systems

1. How might geography influence where people choose to settle?

2. What natural resources might early civilizations depend on?

3. How could the physical environment influence belief systems or cultural practices?

SCIENTIFIC ARGUMENTATION ORGANIZER

(Aligned to Standard 8.16 – Conservation of Energy)

Prompt:

Using evidence observed at Majestic Caverns, construct a scientific argument explaining how energy is transferred or transformed within a natural system.

CLAIM

State your scientific claim clearly.

EVIDENCE

List specific observable evidence from the cavern environment.

• _____

• _____

• _____

REASONING

Explain how your evidence supports your claim using the Law of Conservation of Energy.

In your explanation, reference:

- Kinetic energy
- Potential energy
- Energy transfer
- Energy transformation

SYSTEMS INTERACTION ANALYSIS

(Science & Social Studies Integration)

Eighth grade students must analyze how systems interact.

Complete the chart below using observations from your visit.

Physical System Observed	Human System Connected	Cause & Effect Relationship

Reflection

How do natural systems influence human decision-making?

How can human systems impact natural environments?

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE EVALUATION

(Aligned to Standard 8.1)

Historians construct claims using material evidence.

Complete the chart below.

Artifact or Evidence	What Can Be Proven?	What Is Inference?	Questions Raised

Short Response

Why are cave environments important for archaeological preservation?

How does geography affect migration and settlement patterns?

PRE-COLUMBIAN CIVILIZATION COMPARISON

(Aligned to Standard 8.14)

Compare at least two pre-Columbian civilizations.

Civilization	Geography	Belief Systems	Governance	Environmental Adaptation

Analysis Questions

1. How did geography influence the development of each civilization?

2. What similarities exist between civilizations in different geographic regions?

3. How did environmental challenges shape cultural development?
