



Mammoth Cave: US

Why in News

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



Key Points

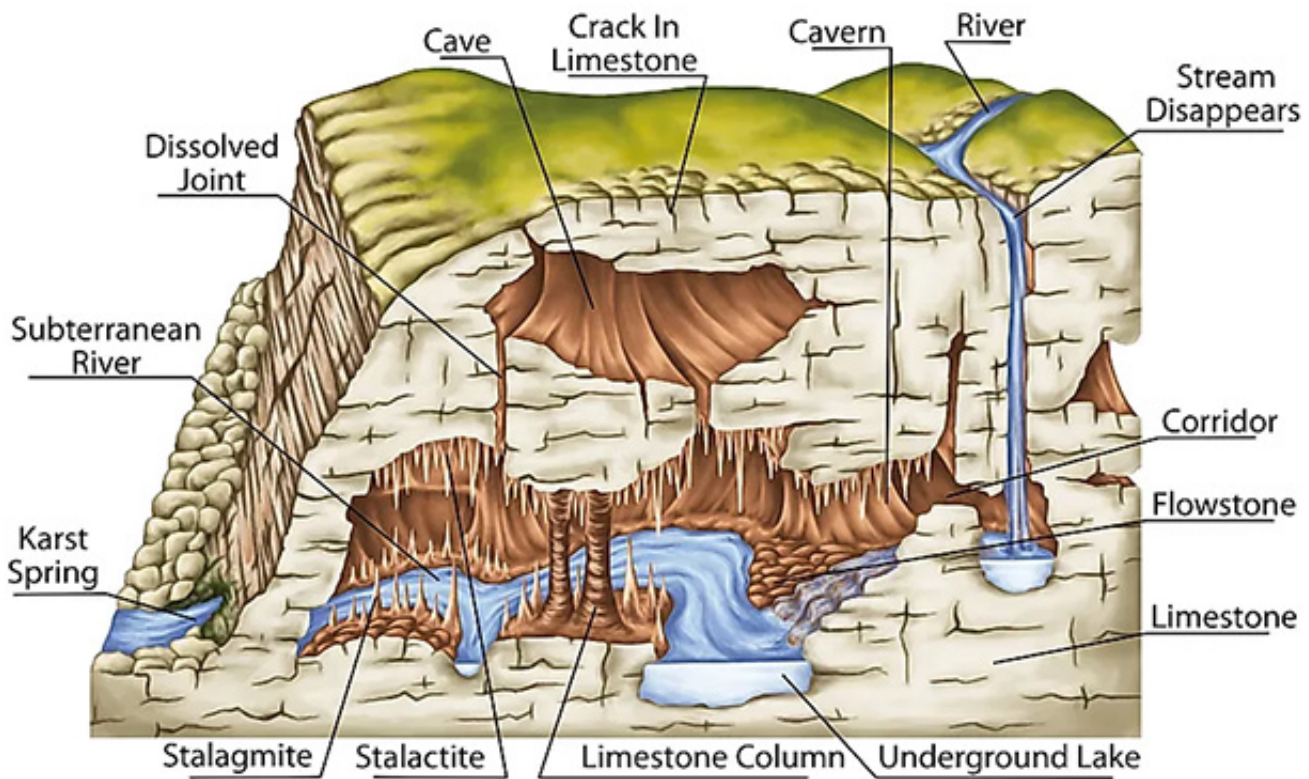
- The **additional mileage (8 miles)** was mapped and **documented by the Cave Research Foundation.**
- **Mammoth Cave National Park**, located in the state of **Kentucky (US)**, has the **world's largest network of natural caves and underground passageways**, which are characteristic examples of **limestone 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

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/mammoth-cave-us>