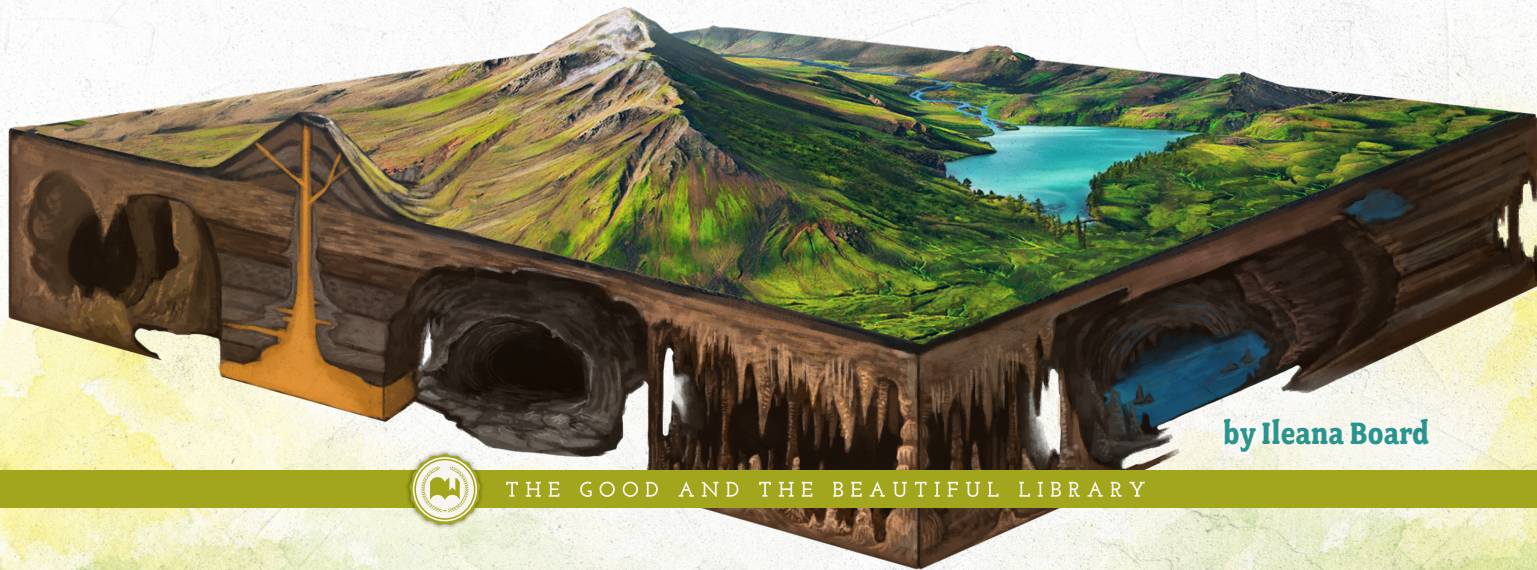


THE WORLD

BENEATH MY FEET



by Ileana Board



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY

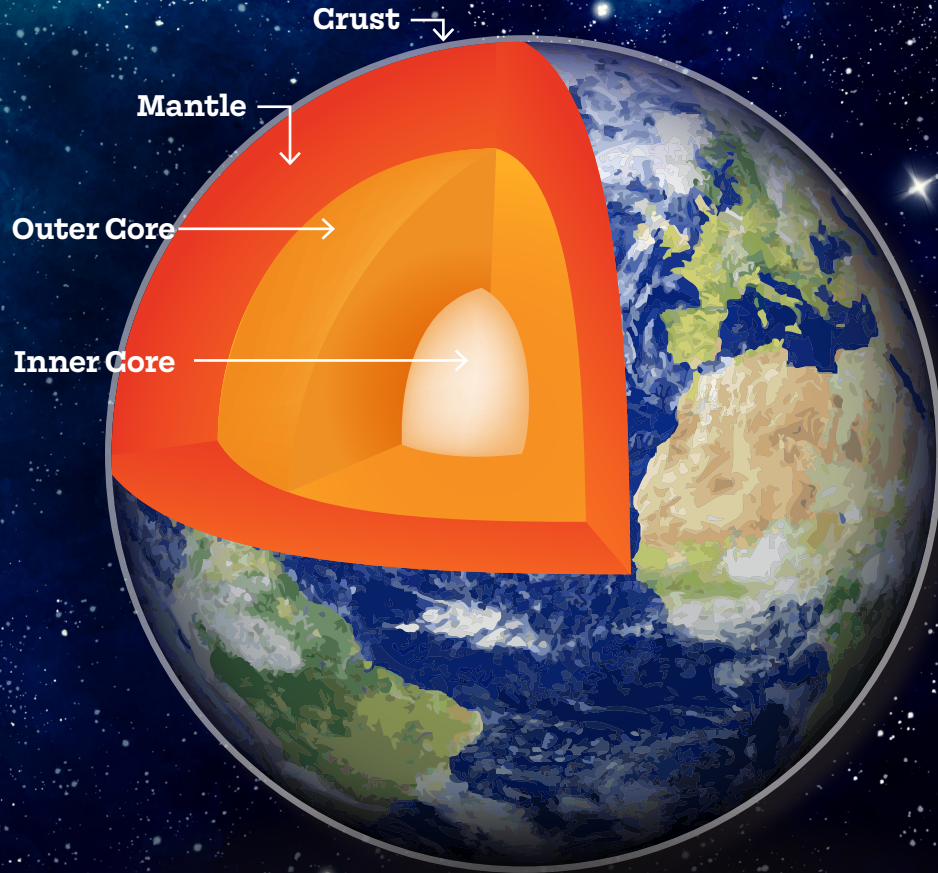


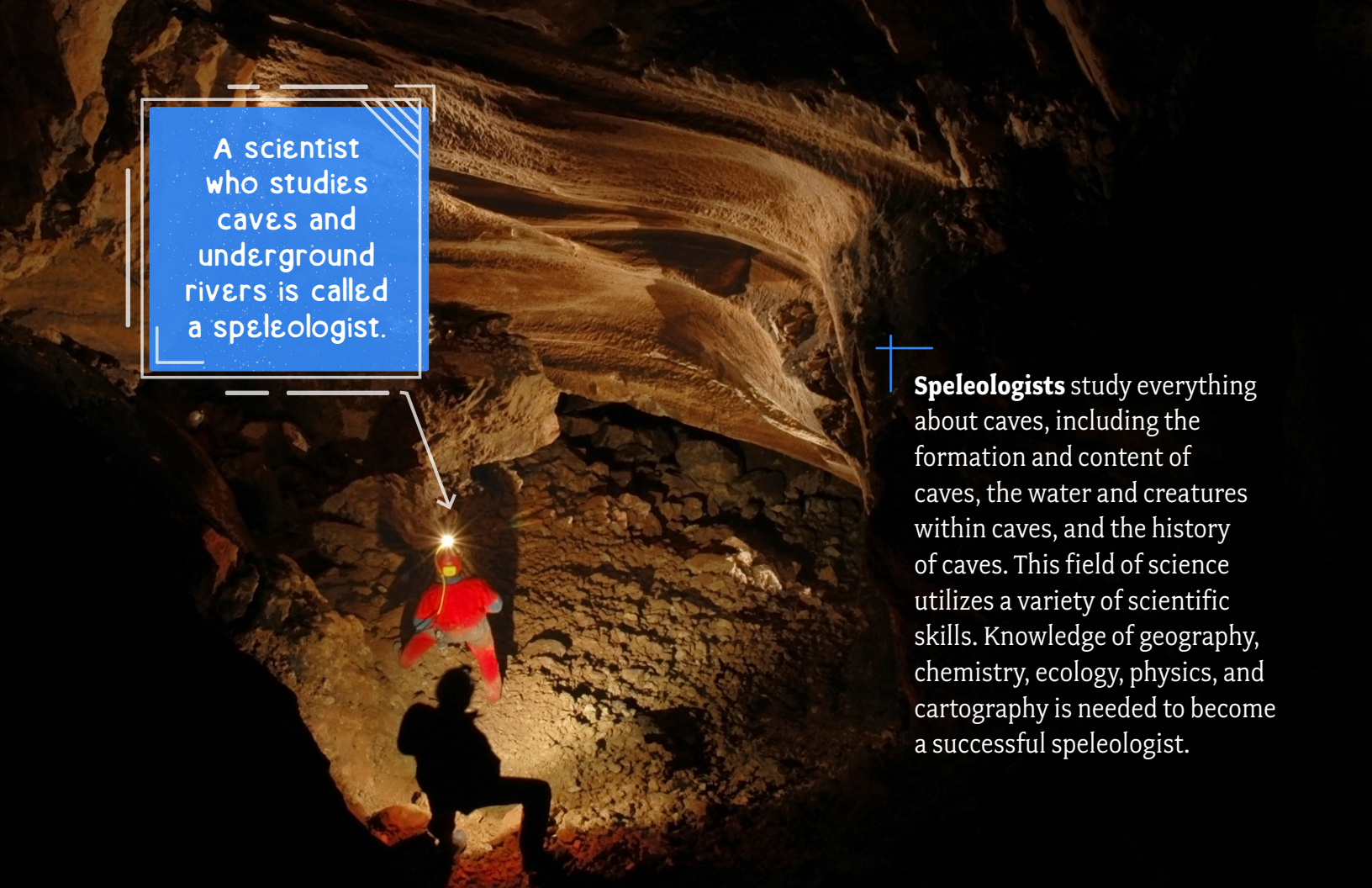
THE WORLD BENEATH MY FEET

Written by Ileana Board



Our planet is made up of four different layers: the crust, the mantle, and the outer and inner cores. Despite the crust being the thinnest of the layers, it is home to all living things on Earth. Even with the inner layers being so relatively close to our feet, we have never seen the mantle or the core layers.



A photograph of a cave interior. In the lower center, a person wearing a red full-body suit and a yellow headlamp is standing on a rocky floor, looking up. To their right, another person is visible in silhouette, crouching or sitting on the ground. The cave walls are composed of layered rock formations, with some areas appearing smooth and others more jagged. The lighting is dim, with the primary light source being the headlamp of the person in the red suit, which casts a bright glow on the surrounding rock. A blue rectangular box with a white border and a small white arrow pointing towards the person in the red suit is located in the upper left quadrant. To the right of the person in the red suit, there is a blue crosshair symbol followed by a paragraph of text.

A scientist
who studies
caves and
underground
rivers is called
a speleologist.

Speleologists study everything about caves, including the formation and content of caves, the water and creatures within caves, and the history of caves. This field of science utilizes a variety of scientific skills. Knowledge of geography, chemistry, ecology, physics, and cartography is needed to become a successful speleologist.



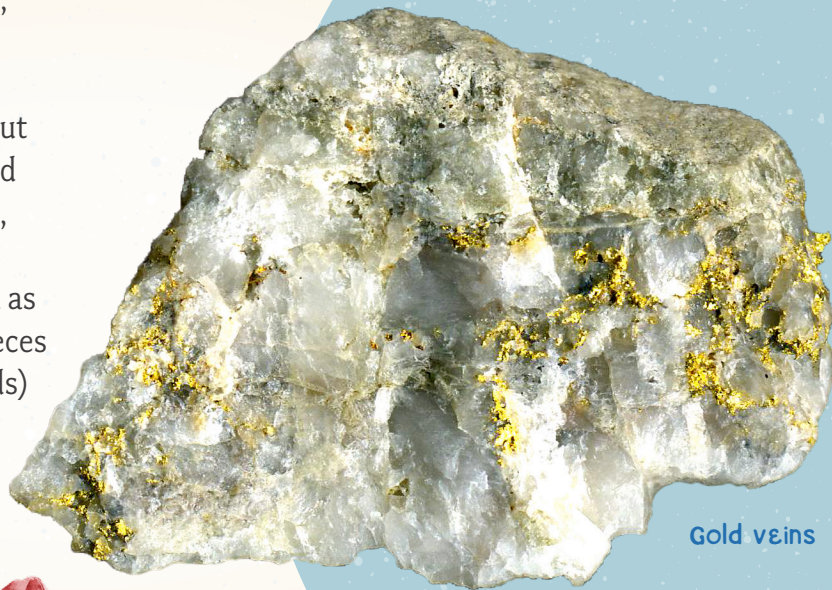
When a volcano erupts above ground, molten rock flows down from the volcano's opening. As it flows and comes in contact with cooler surroundings in crevices underground, the sides and tops of the flow harden, eventually forming a cave-like tube with hot lava still traveling through it.

SCIENTISTS WHO STUDY ROCKS
ARE CALLED GEOLOGISTS.

Geologists study the earth, including its history, materials, and processes, in order to help predict what will occur in the future and explain what is happening now.



Gemstones, like diamonds and rubies, are crystallized minerals that form in many different ways, just like the different types of rocks we talked about earlier. The basic requirements needed for crystallization are space, pressure, heat, time, and the right ingredients. Gemstones and precious metals, such as silver and gold, are found as single pieces or in veins (like the veins in your hands) in solid rock.



Gold veins





Today, fossil fuels represent 80% of the world's energy. Because they are impossible to make artificially and take so long to form, these fuels are called nonrenewable energy sources. Every day, scientists are working hard to find other sources of energy. I wonder if any new fuels buried in the world under our feet will be discovered in our lifetimes.



THE WORLD

BENEATH MY FEET

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to explore the subterranean realm deep inside the earth? The world mostly concealed from our sight is one of mystery, beauty, and wonder. Come and discover the incredible underground rivers and lakes, lava tubes, rocks, and rare gems that lay within the crust of the earth. Understand the importance of how the substances found below contribute to the wonderful life and advancements we enjoy above. This beautiful book filled with stunning images and incredible facts gives readers a new appreciation for the vast world just beneath our feet.

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