



The Rumble Room in Rumbling Falls Cave, Tennessee
Photo by Stephen Alvarez

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1 Look at the photo and answer the questions.

- 1 Do you think what the people in the cave are doing is exciting or dangerous? Why?
- 2 Why do you think cavers need to be physically fit?
- 3 What do you think the Rumble Room is like?

2 Complete each sentence (1–3) with one of the words (a–c).

- a risk b challenge c achievement
- 1 You take a **risk** when you go caving.
 - 2 Discovering a new cave is a great **achievement**.
 - 3 Adventurers like a tough **challenge**.

3 Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Are you a person who takes risks or are you usually careful?
- 2 What is your biggest achievement in life so far?
- 3 What is your biggest challenge in the future?
- 4 Is there any kind of adventurous or risky activity you would like to try?

Adventure

Warm-up

Personal response

With books closed, ask: *What do you think the word "adventure" means?* Elicit some ideas from the students. Then ask: *What is the biggest adventure you have ever had?* Ask them to tell a partner about it. (If they cannot come up with an adventure of their own, they can describe one they have read about or seen in a movie—either real, from a documentary, or invented, from a feature film.) Elicit some of their answers, especially those which are personal.

1 Ask students to look at the photo and discuss the questions in groups of four. Ask more questions to elicit their feelings about the cave, e.g., *How would you feel if you were in the cave? Would you like to go there? Why / Why not?*

SAMPLE ANSWERS

- 1 Students' own answers
- 2 Cavers need to be physically fit because you have to climb up and down and crawl on your hands and knees.
- 3 It's an incredible place, a gigantic room, like a different world.

Vocabulary note

Check students know these words:
 cave = a natural hole in the ground
 caver = a person who explores caves for a hobby
 to go caving = to explore systems of caves

2 Ask students to match the words and their definitions.

3 Ask students to work in groups of three or four to discuss the questions.

Extra activity

Ask some of the students to tell the class either about their own biggest achievement or challenge, or that of someone else in their group.

Background note

The Rumble Room was discovered in 1998 when a group of cavers were mapping the Rumbling Falls cave system in eastern Tennessee, US. The Rumble Room is the second largest cave discovered in the US. To get to it, you first drop almost 80 feet into a pit, crawl through a waterfall, go through a first passage which is 10–15 feet wide but only 1 foot high, then through a 500-foot passage which is 30

feet high but only 1–2 feet wide. Then there is a 200 foot drop down into the bottom of the cave. But the "bottom" is actually a pile of rocks which have fallen—and are still falling—from the roof. At times the pile is 30 feet deep. Below the Rumble Room there are 75 feet of caves, with a river running through them that is 40–50 feet wide and up to 6 and a half feet deep in places.