

## Sample Essay for Moaning Caverns Field Trip Project

Welcome to my virtual field trip of Moaning Cavern. Moaning Cavern is a huge cavern located at 5350 Moaning Cave Road in Vallecito, California. It is so large that it could hold the entire Statue of Liberty! This is an amazing field trip and I'm sure you'll enjoy exploring it virtually with me.

First, we piled into our charter bus and took off for Moaning Cavern. After we finished with the almost 2 hour bus ride, we split up into two groups and waited for instructions from our guides. They told us that it is very important not to touch anything in the cavern because the oils from our fingers can damage the fragile life and rock structures that exist in the cavern. After we listened to the rules and regulations, we headed down into the cavern. The stairs were very steep and the pathway looked somewhat treacherous. It wasn't enough to scare us off, though. I was excited to continue down into the depths of the cavern. After we climbed down 234 stairs, we were 165 feet below the Earth's surface. Luckily no one fell down the stairs and we made it down to the bottom of the cavern. It was a long journey down and even though there were lights, it was still quite dim. It was also somewhat humid and the temperature was cool and pleasant. Our guide told us all about the unique rock formations inside the cavern. He also described how human bones have been excavated from the cavern. The scariest part was when our guide turned out all the lights and it was pitch black inside the cavern. We couldn't even see our hands in front of our faces!

After we had our cavern experience, we had the opportunity to mine for gemstones. They had running water in troughs and special boxes with a screen at the bottom to mine the gemstones. We put our mining mixture inside and gently shook it inside the water until our sparkling gems were revealed. To find out what gems we had mined, we compared them to a matrix on a chart posted in front of the mining trough. It was a very cool experience.

For those people who enjoy adventure, Moaning Cavern also has a zip line and adventure rappelling. Some day I would like to come back and try the zip line. It looks like it would be an exhilarating experience.