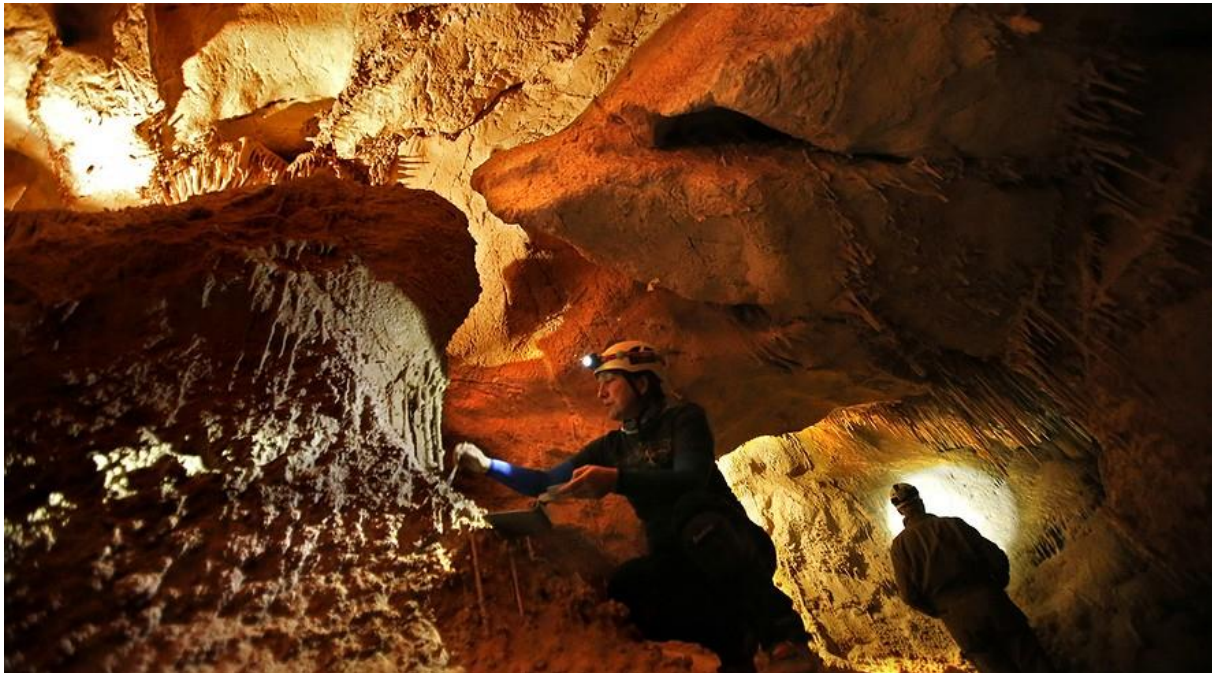


Day 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Cave Cleaners Pick Lint, Hair From Delicate Rock Formations



(Left) Randi Poer, from Santa Ana, California, and Paul Kemp, from Sandy, Utah, clean lint off rock formations inside the Lehman Cave at the Great Basin National Park on Feb. 6, 2015, in Baker, Nevada. Volunteers from California, Nevada and Utah participate in "Lint Camp," helping to wipe, clean, clear, scrub, dust and pick lint that has gathered on rock formations within the cave. Genaro Molina/Los Angeles Times/TNS

BAKER, Nev. — It is quiet here, deep below the earth's surface. The beam from Paul Kemp's headlamp slices through the shadows. It helps him discover evidence of the explorers who have come down into this strange world.

Kemp is a 67-year-old retired rocket engineer. He uses his tiny brush to gently clear away the fluff and grit coating a clutch of stalactites hanging from the ceiling of Lehman Cave.

It is man-made dirt — clothing fibers, hair, dead skin, and dust left by 28,000 visitors a year. He carefully collects his catch in a blue dustpan and puts it in a plastic bag the size of an office trash can. It's filling fast.

"Oh, my," Kemp says. "These formations are terrible. They're simply covered with dust."