

Day 2

Name _____

Sign Up For Lint Camp

Kemp and his 14-year-old son, Simon, are volunteers in a National Park Service program known as Lint Camp. They perform one of America's strangest natural chores — cleaning a handful of caves popular with crowds of tourists.

The father-son team from Sandy, Utah, joined several cavers who left the warm sunlight to go down into this deep cave. Cavers are people who explore caves for fun. They entered a cave room of limestone and marble that was full of mysterious shapes and shadows. The temperature in the cave is a cool 52 degrees. Bats, scorpions — without stingers — and tiny creatures called springtails hide inside.

The pair duck beneath low ledges to reach an area known as the Wedding Chapel. There, Paul Kemp hops on top of a ledge and reaches toward a strange grouping of ancient rock formations more than 1 million years old. They are stalactites, hanging like icicles from the ceiling, and stalagmites — like icicles coming up from the floor. There are also other forms named for their color or shape: cave bacon, shields and popcorn.