Where Would You Live?



Find your favourite home inside!

Sharon Parsons

Nelson Literacy Directions

WHERE Would You Live?

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Dear Reader

If you could choose exactly where you and your family lived, where would that be? In this book you'll find out about a wide range of interesting places where, given the same choice, many others have chosen to settle, in the past and today.

Some people make their homes near an active volcano in Sicily, Italy. They live with the constant threat of eruption from Mount Etna, and have to sweep ash from their pathways almost every day. They continue to live there because it is home.

> **PEOPLE OFTEN QUOTE THE PROVERB, 'HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS'.**

Silicon Valley, in the USA, is a place where a lot of the technology in smartphones and computers was invented. Thousands of people choose to live there so they can work for some of the world's most innovative technology companies.

Many of the more unusual places to live are featured on pages 30–31. Do any of them appeal to you?

Sharon Parsons

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Deciding where to live is a challenge – so let us persuade you that our area's the best.

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There are few surprises when Italy's Mount Etna erupts. It's been doing it almost continually for centuries.

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They're both coastal cities, built around harbours. They're about the same size. But one has 19 million more people than the other.

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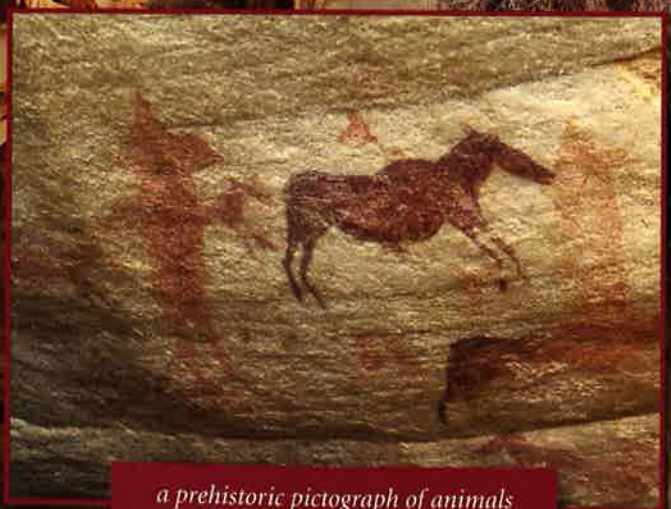
Here's a selection of unique places to live in, from around the world. Take your pick!

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1 Living in Caves

As humans have evolved and learned to live in a technologically advanced world, they have been presented with greater choices of where to live. Although they now have extensive choices, people today still share the same fundamental survival needs as their cave-dwelling ancestors – food and water, shelter from the elements and protection from threats.



a prehistoric pictograph of animals in bushman's rock artwork in the mountains of South Africa

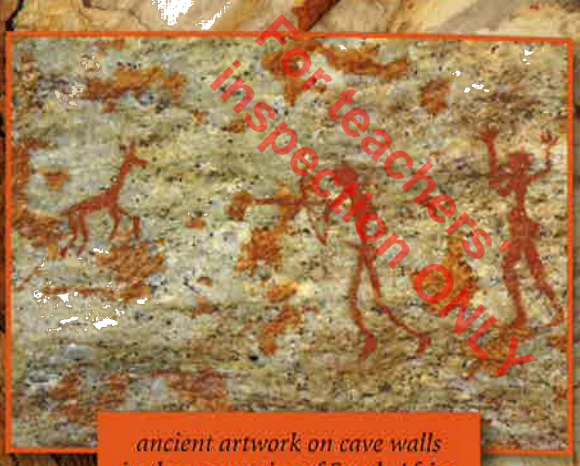
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Earliest Life in Caves

For the earliest humans, caves provided a natural and convenient source of shelter from the weather, as well as protection from predators. Speleologists (people who study caves and their features) and archaeologists have long been aware of signs of early life in caves, such as the remains of fires, fragments of tools, animal bones and early paintings.

Discovery by Archaeologists

In 2011, archaeologists discovered what appeared to be the oldest evidence of bedding from inside a cave used around 77 000 years ago. From inside the Sibudu Cave in South Africa, investigations of the ancient beds have revealed layers of medicinal leaves, stems and grasses in sediment, measuring about three metres thick. That's quite a mattress!



ancient artwork on cave walls in the mountains of South Africa





Cango caves in Oudtshoorn, South Africa



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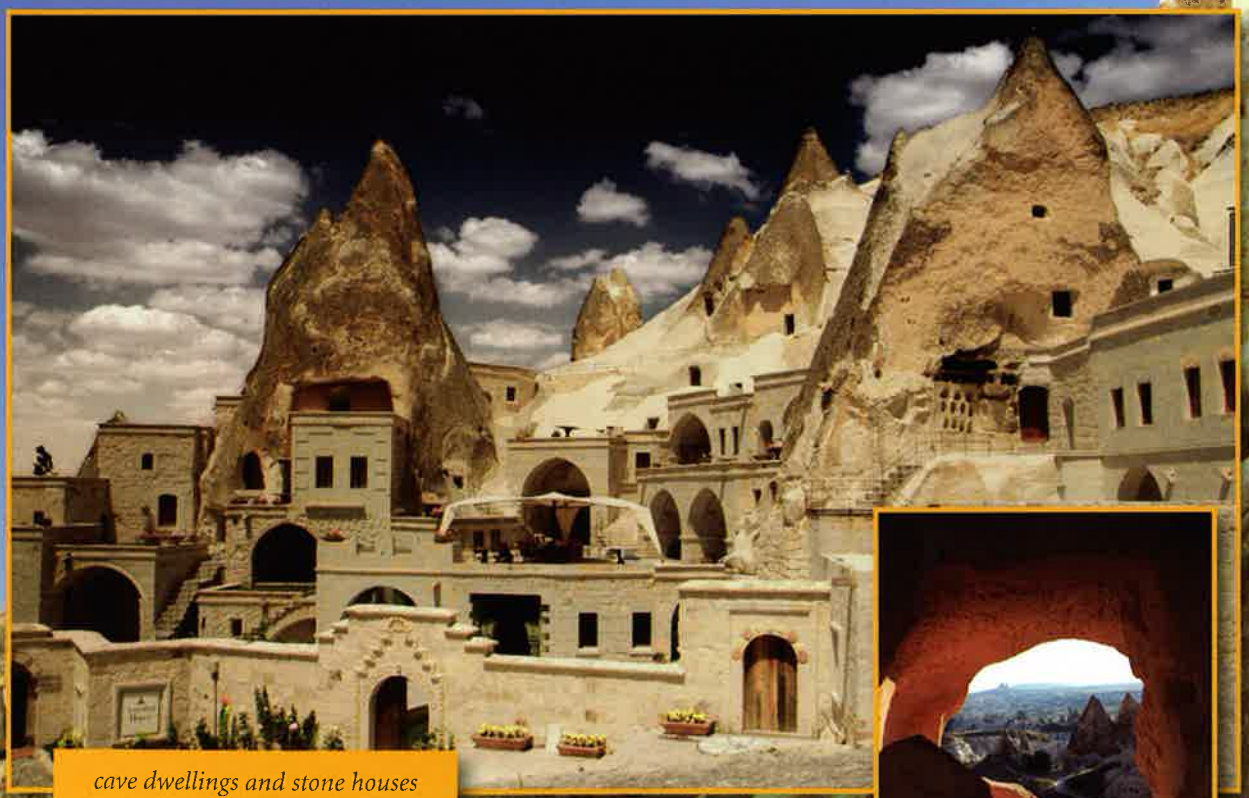
Later Cave Dwellers in Turkey

Although humans learned to build houses from wood, reeds and other natural materials, caves continued to provide a secure and safe environment for many communities.

Early Christians and other refugees who lived in what is now the region of Cappadocia, in central Turkey, created entire underground cave cities over 3 500 years ago to keep themselves safe from persecution. The underground city of Derinkuyu was home to about 3 000 people and, because it had only a few entrances that could be blocked off, it was easily defended. Derinkuyu had five separate floors of caves, and was inhabited to a depth of about 60 metres. Caves formed in the rocky hillsides of Cappadocia provided shelter for some communities until the early part of the twentieth century.



underground caves at Derinkuyu, Cappadocia, Turkey



cave dwellings and stone houses in Goreme, Cappadocia

a view of Rose Valley from a cave entrance in Cappadocia

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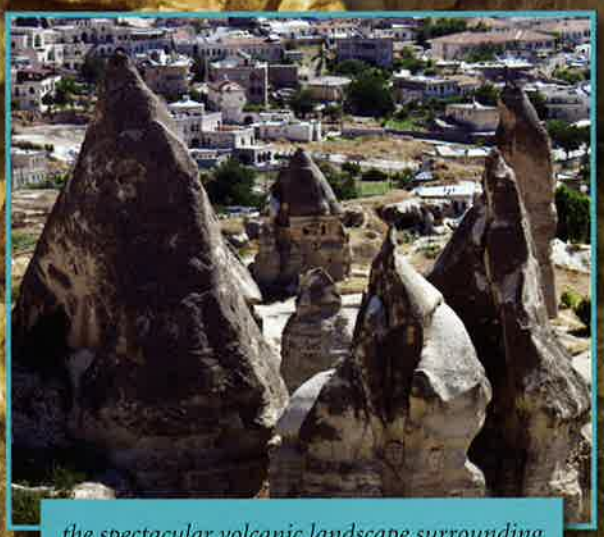
Living above the Škocjan Caves

Cave entrances can be visible or hidden, and vary in size and shape. The historically signicant Škocjan Caves in Slovenia have entrances underwater. In 1986, UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation) inscribed the Škocjan Caves on the list of Natural and Cultural World Heritage Sites. Archaelogical researchers have uncovered evidence that people lived in the caves over 5 000 years ago. Today, the village of Škocjan is situated above the caves' site.

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a small waterfall flowing from an entrance to the Škocjan Caves in Slovenia



the spectacular volcanic landscape surrounding the cave settlement in Cappadocia

caves built inside volcanic stones in Cappadocia

2 Cave Temples in India

Early cave temples were places of worship and for small groups of monks and communities to live in, too. The cave temples in Maharashtra, India, are famous examples of monolithic rock architecture. Indian monks and artists manually created these intricately designed and carved caves over centuries. The cave temples are a glimpse into early Indian life, and the Hindu, Buddhist and Jain religions. These Indian cave temples have been listed as a World Heritage Site.

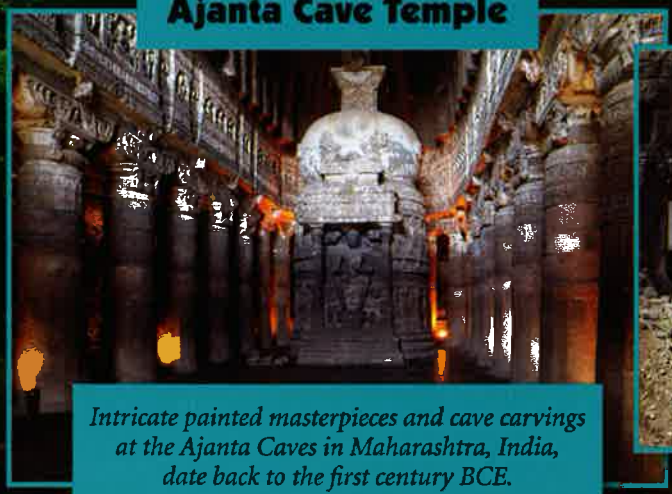


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MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra is the richest state in India.

Ajanta Cave Temple

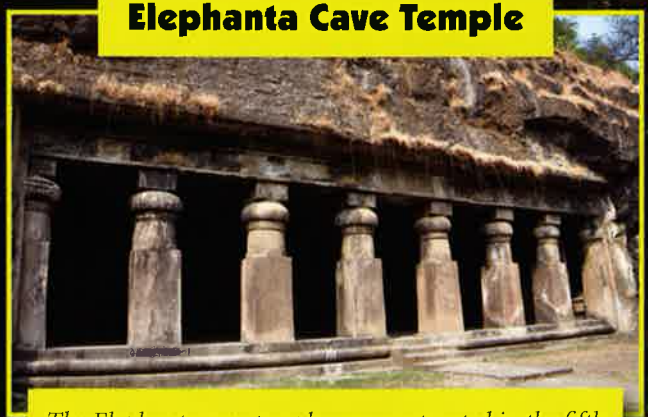


Intricate painted masterpieces and cave carvings at the Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra, India, date back to the first century BCE.



ancient Buddhist rock temples built into the cliff face at Ajanta

Elephanta Cave Temple



The Elephanta cave temple was constructed in the fifth century on Elephanta Island, Mumbai, Maharashtra. Among its many awe-inspiring sculptures and carvings are the giant pillars.

Ellora Cave Temples

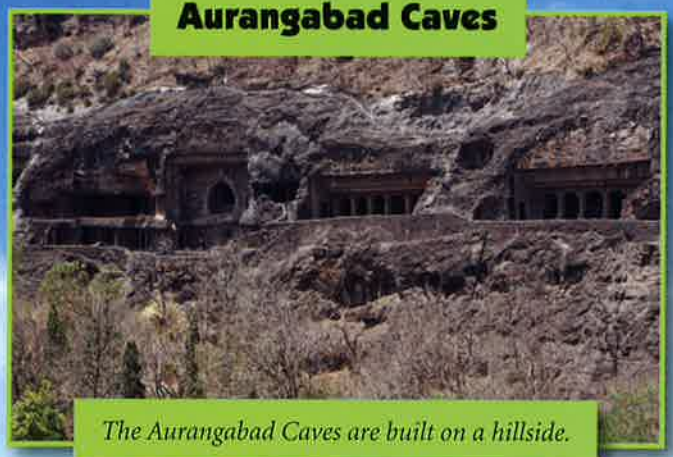


Thirty-four cave temples at the Ellora Caves in Maharashtra were constructed over a period of about 600 years in the second century BCE.

More **Caves** in **Maharashtra**

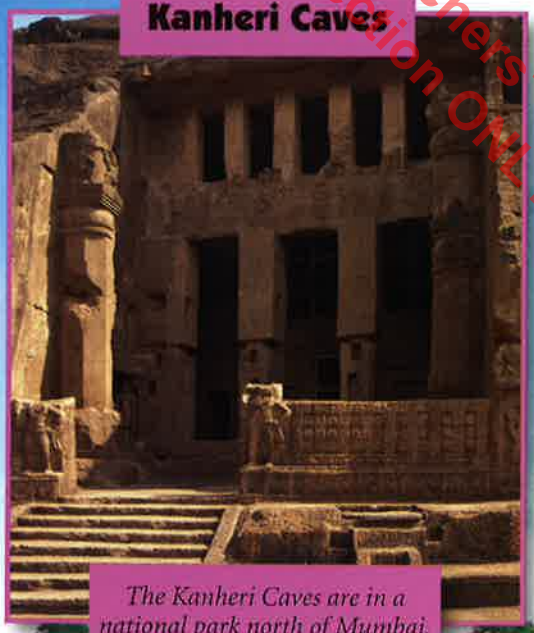
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Aurangabad Caves



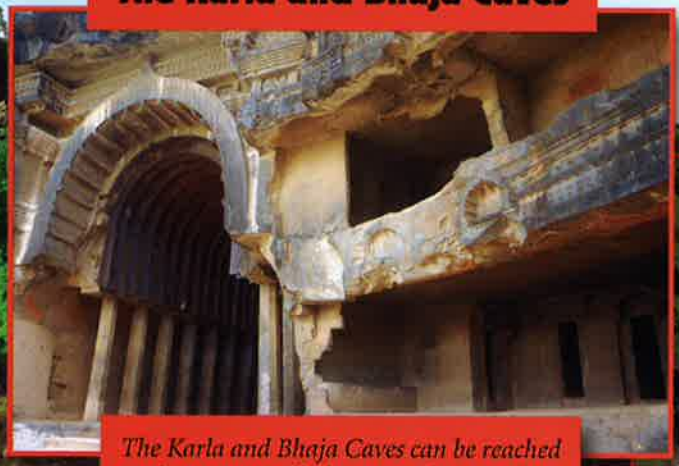
The Aurangabad Caves are built on a hillside.

Kanheri Caves

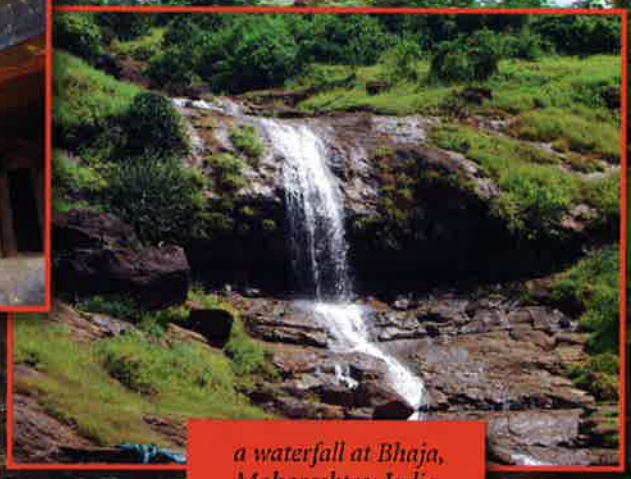


The Kanheri Caves are in a national park north of Mumbai.

The Karla and Bhaja Caves



The Karla and Bhaja Caves can be reached by a steep walk that can take several minutes, but a waterfall is nearby!



a waterfall at Bhaja, Maharashtra, India

