

 Travel
Adventures

$x - 7 = 4$

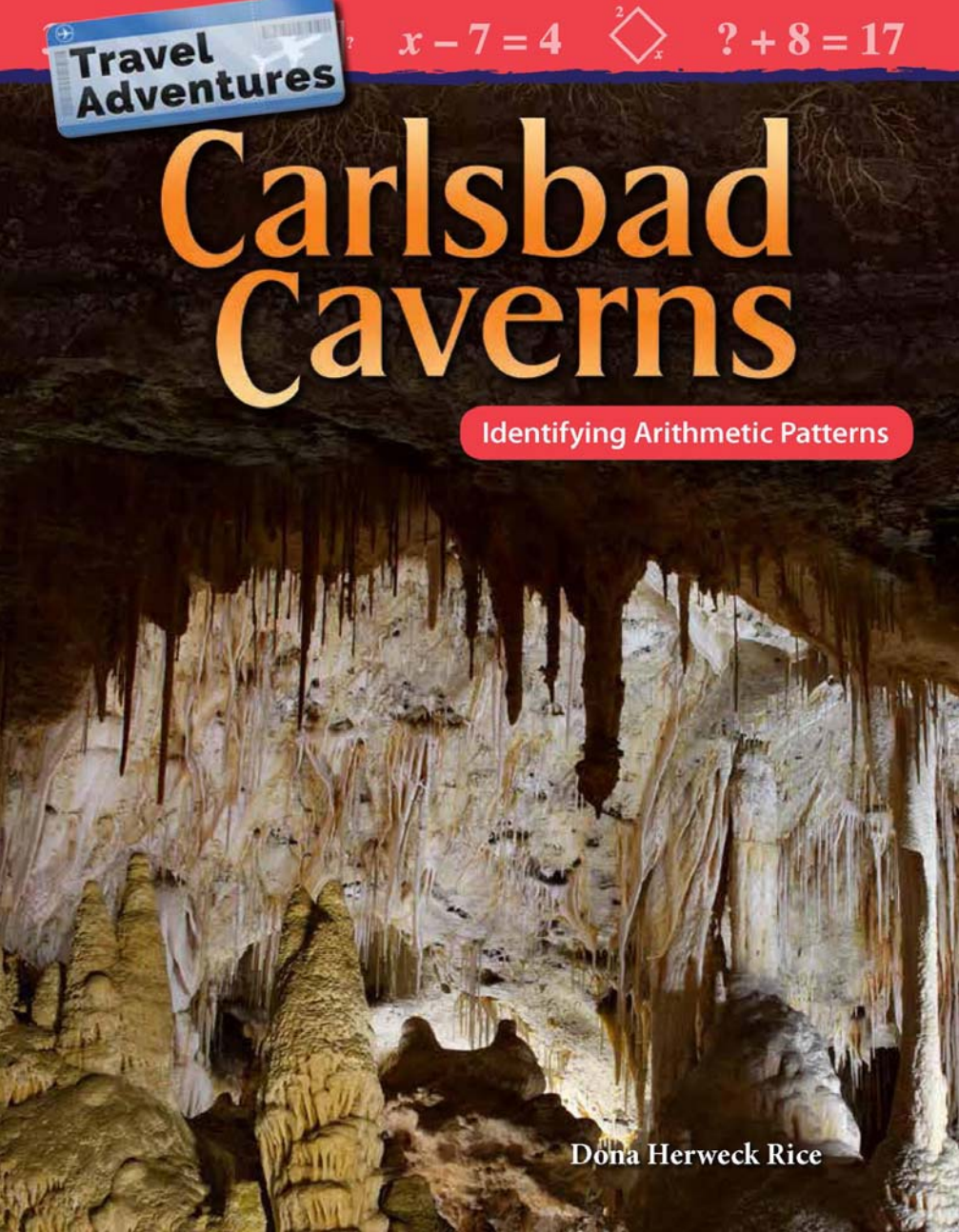


$? + 8 = 17$

Carlsbad Caverns

Identifying Arithmetic Patterns

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Stepping into the Earth

You step carefully down a winding cement pathway. The path drops down, down, down below the level of the land. The air gets cooler with every step. The light gets dimmer, too, as you leave the sun behind. Birds dart overhead and race down the path ahead of you.

The path leads into a tall, wide opening. It looks like the earth is yawning. This is the mouth of the caverns. You are getting ready to step into the earth itself! The air is damp, and it smells strongly of bat **guano**, or poop. The floor of the cave is covered in it!

You have just stepped through the entrance to Carlsbad Caverns. The caverns are a U.S. National Park. People want to **preserve** this unique spot for years to come.



CARLSBAD CAVERNS

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

One property of addition is that two odd numbers always have an even sum. Two even numbers also have an even sum. But, an odd number and an even number have an odd sum. These are constant patterns in arithmetic.

Now, imagine you take 335 steps into the cavern. Your brother, who has shorter legs, takes 383 steps. Will the sum of your steps be odd or even?

the winding pathway into the entrance of Carlsbad Caverns

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