

Formation of Sinkholes and Other Varieties of Karst Topography in Limestone Layers

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Abstract

In recent years, karst topography has gained public attention due to the number of incidences concerning limestone sinkholes and other karst features. The beauty and power of nature is proven through the existence of limestone formations. This sedimentary rock possesses traits that make it prime for karst activity, which includes the formation of sinkholes, caves, and underground water systems. Sinkholes are defined as holes in the Earth's surface that are formed through the erosion of bedrock. Caves are systems of hollowed bedrock that are renowned for its unique calcite structures. Underground water systems describe underground rivers and streams that can carve through stone. Through describing the process of forming aspects of a karst terrain on limestone bedrock, this paper will delve into descriptions of the various features of this unique landscape, as well as suggestions on how to prevent human impact on the formation of sinkholes.