

## How Old Is That Cave?

Have you ever seen a stalactite growing on a building? One made of minerals, not just ice. They are more common than you may realize. I have seen many. One grew in the basement of my childhood home in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. That house was built in 1954, and my parents purchased it around 1967. It initially had well water, but the well was capped when city water became available. The pipe which had brought water about 100 feet from the well to the house was not removed. Mineral water slowly dripped out of that pipe's open end into a crawl space in our home's basement. By 1967 these drips had formed a beautiful stalactite, more than 4 inches long. So in less than a decade, that stalactite grew 4 inches.

Evolutionists are well aware that stalactites and stalagmites can grow rapidly, even inches per year under some conditions. Yet because they *assume* deep time (see *Assumptions of Evolutionists*<sup>1</sup> on page 7), they conclude that stalactites in caves form very slowly. To reach this conclusion, they *assume* that conditions for stalactite and stalagmite formation have remained similar to today's conditions for the past tens and even hundreds of thousands of years. For example, they *assume* the dripping water's mineral content and flow rate have always been similar to what is measured today (except for past periods when they *assume* no water flow). They also *assume* that there was no planetary flood on earth, an event which would provide significantly different cave formation conditions for centuries following such a cataclysm. Based on these assumptions and others, they calculate cave stalactites grow less than one inch in 25-100 years. If the flow rate of mineral water was higher in the past, say for the first centuries after Noah's Flood, then cave stalactites may have formed rapidly during those post-flood conditions.

Our LSI Journal cover photo was taken in 2002 in Cave of the Mounds National Natural Landmark, located in Blue Mounds Wisconsin. The web page for that cave states, "It takes approximately 100 years for

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<sup>1</sup> Mark Bergemann, *Assumptions of Evolutionists*, *LSI Journal*, 31. no. 4 (2017): 7. [www.LutheranScience.org/2017fall](http://www.LutheranScience.org/2017fall)

cave onyx, or calcite, to grow 1 inch.”<sup>2</sup> This of course assumes that the mineral content and flow rate of the dripping water, and other conditions in the past, were similar to conditions today. That web page continues,

The Cave is made of a natural limestone called galena dolomite. Our limestone formed during the Ordovician Period, between 450-500 million years ago. Our Cave has a 6-foot fossil of a giant cephalopod, a relative of the squid.<sup>3</sup> ...The Cave was formed within limestone, a sedimentary rock formed from compacted seashells and other marine sediments. ...During the Ordovician Period, warm shallow seas covered the continent where we find Wisconsin today.<sup>4</sup>

Try to think about some of the many *unprovable assumptions* which an evolutionist uses in making these statements. Evolutionists *assume* that there was no planetary flood on earth. They reject the possibility of a planet-wide flood on earth because such a catastrophe would completely change their scientific conclusions, demolishing the evolutionary geologic column and completely revising the dating of fossils and rocks. Evolutionists *assume* that seashells and other marine sediments slowly accumulated on the sea floor over millions of years, and that happened over 450 million years ago. They reject the possibility that these fossil laden sedimentary rock layers were deposited quickly during a global catastrophe. Evolutionists *assume* that easily eroded limestone has existed for over 450 million years without being completely eroded away.

*If any of these unproven assumptions are wrong, then the resulting scientific conclusions made by evolutionists are invalid.*

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2 “Fun Facts About Cave of the Mounds -Science,” Cave of The Mounds, <https://www.caveofthemounds.com/about/fun-facts/> (accessed October 5, 2017).

3 “Fun Facts ...,” Cave of the Mounds.

4 “Science of the Cave,” Cave of The Mounds, <https://www.caveofthemounds.com/about/science/> (accessed October 5, 2017).



**Water dripping in Rushova peshtera cave, Bulgaria**

*[credit: Pixabay]*



**Frasassi Cave in Italy.**

*[credit: Pixabay]*

“Stalactites” are formed when mineral laden water drips from the ceiling, depositing minerals to build an icicle-like formation. The water dripping off of the stalactite may build a “stalagmite” on the floor. Eventually a stalactite and the stalagmite below it may grow large enough to meet, becoming a “column.” There are several memory tricks, pick your favorite:

stalac**T**ITES hold **T**IGHT to the ceiling  
stalag**M**ITES **M**IGHT touch the ceiling

stala**C**tites on the **C**eiling  
stala**G**mites on the **G**round