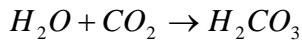
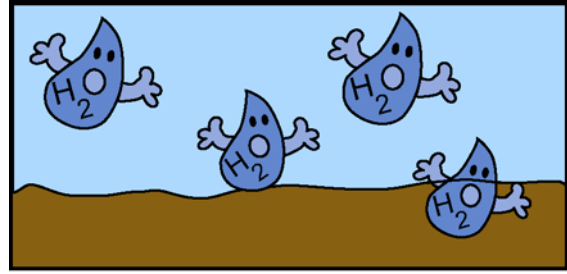
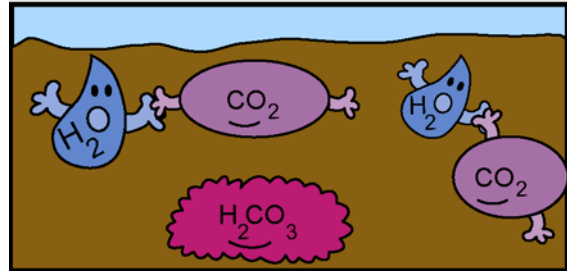


How a Kentucky Cave Forms:

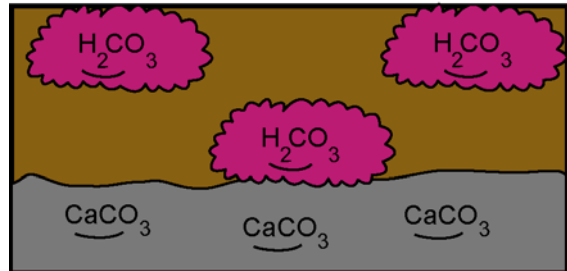
1. **Water** H_2O comes in contact with the ground.
2. As the **water** travels through the ground it joins with **carbon dioxide** CO_2 within the soil and forms **carbonic acid** H_2CO_3 .



3. The **carbonic acid** travels through the ground until it comes into contact with **Limestone**. **Limestone** is also known as **calcium carbonate** $CaCO_3$.



4. The **carbonic acid** dissolves the **calcium carbonate**. As more and more of the **calcium carbonate** is eaten away over time a hole begins to form. As time passes, the hole gets larger and larger. It develops into a cave.



5. If **carbonic acid with dissolved calcium carbonate** travels downwards through the rock and encounters an air-filled cave, it drips from the ceiling of the cave and can leave behind mineral deposits (**calcium carbonate**). The mineral deposits are cave formations including stalactites and stalagmites.

