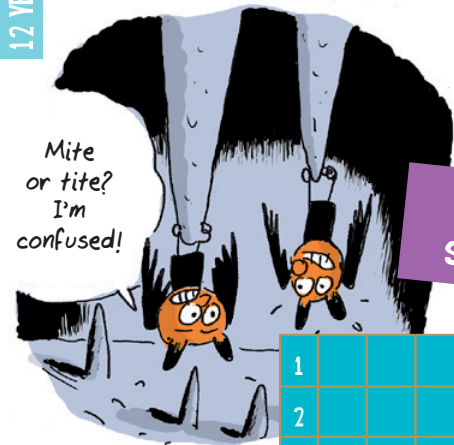


# Crossword

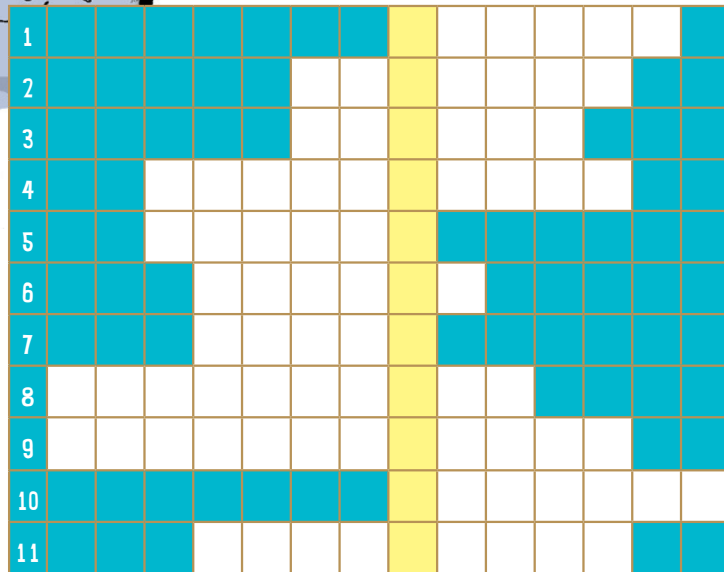
Exploring the "Gouffre de Padirac" has enabled speleologists to uncover amazing rock sculptures. They have formed over time with the build-up of calcite-laden water drops. The result is dazzling!



Natural sculptures

\*Calcite: dissolved limestone. Rainwater becomes infilled with calcite by seeping through calcareous soil.

Fill in the lines using the definitions. The name given to natural sculptures which can be seen in caves such as Padirac will appear in the yellow column.



- It forms when "the one that points upwards" meets with the "one that points downwards".
- People study it to find out what types of rock make up the "Gouffre de Padirac".
- This inflatable boat is used to cross deep-water zones.
- The one that points "downwards".

- Édouard-Alfred Martel used it to descend into the "Gouffre de Padirac".
- It provides head protection and accommodates a lighting device during an underground exploration.
- The chasm's "ceiling".
- The one that points "upwards".

- The person who discovers, explores, studies and draws maps of underground cavities to then share their knowledge.
- A set of interconnected underground galleries.
- Soft rock.



Quiz Reaching a depth of 246 feet, the "Gouffre de Padirac" opens into a long network of underground galleries. The converted part is open to visitors. You travel on foot on the dry areas, or by boat on the "Rivière Plane".

Test your knowledge with this quiz to know all there is to know about the "Gouffre de Padirac". Then show your parents up!

- Who conducted the actual first exploration of the "Gouffre de Padirac" on July 8, 1889?
  - Édouard-Alfred Martel, the father of modern speleology.
  - Joseph Kessel, an international reporter and novelist.
  - Haroun Tazieff, a famous geologist and volcanologist.
- According to the legend, who created the "Gouffre de Padirac"?
  - A dragon.
  - Merlin the Enchanter.
  - The Devil.
- What is the chasm's diameter?
  - 10 feet. B. 115 feet. C. 1148 feet.



- How does a chasm such as the one in Padirac form?
  - It is a hole carved by magma which has risen from the Earth's core.
  - It is the result of the vault collapsing over an underground chamber.
  - It is a burrow which has been dug by giant moles.

# Who am I?

The area of Padirac which is open to the public harbours three outstanding lakes: the "Lac de la Pluie", the "Lac Suspendu" and the "Lac des Gours". Learn all about their characteristics through these games!

## The lakes of Padirac

**1** Right above the "Lac de la Pluie", a majestic natural sculpture represents Padirac's emblem. Decipher this message while keeping in mind that A=1, B=2, C=3, etc.

20-8-5      7-18-1-14-4-5  
 -----  
 16-5-14-4-5-12-15-17-21-5  
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**2** The "Lac Suspendu" is located in an upstairs chamber. What is its name? Solve this riddle to find out.

- My first is the opposite of the word "small" in French.
- In the field of music, my second is the sound you make singing the starting note of a scale.
- My third is the sound you make when uttering the 10th consonant of the alphabet.
- The vault of my whole rises to a height of 308 feet!

**3** True or false? The "Lac des Gours" is named as such since it is home to microscopic creatures known as "gours".

T      F  
  



Answers: 1 The "Grande Pendeloque". 2. The "Grand Dôme". 3. False "gours" are small pools which are delimited by natural dams made of layers of limestones.

# Maze

The "Gouffre de Padirac" is home to nearly 3 000 bats! It is also home to a blind shrimp (the niphargus) and a tiny snail which is native\* to the Padirac river (the Bythinella padiraci).

## Underground wildlife

\*Native: word used to describe a living species which can only be found within a well-delineated territory.



➤ Find your way out of the chasm by avoiding all the bats!