3D Cavern

Posted by weaverjk - 2006/03/26 02:14

I've been thinking about how I'm going to use the CR&W set with my other sets to lay out the caves with rivers and at least one water fall in my campaign's first adventure setting. I was happy to be seeing myself using the CR&W sets. I have one cavern that has a water fall, probably a 40-45-foot drop from a hole in the side of the cavern near the top. This spills down into the cavern that is pretty much circular in nature. There is a small rock island (could use what comes with the lake set or perhaps use a "medium rock" on an all-water tile) in the cavern, mostly covered with bat dung. The river passes by a ledge above (that leads back into the passage from the cavern entrance), before disappearing into the granite and onto the next cavern system.

Inspired by the multi-level stuff I've seen here, I wanted to create at least the back half of the main cavern with the large waterfall. My first thought was to take a bunch of cavern floor tiles, tape them together on the back, and curve them around and over (perhaps taping the tiles to bent coat hangers along the outside for support) to form a domed cavern. Of course, I'd want to find something to do to portray the waterfall. That would be darned cool.

My next thoughts were 1) there's no way I want to needlessly damage my DF pieces; and 2) there'd be unacceptable spaced between the floor tiles used as a curving, tilting wall.

Next line of thinking...how about paper mache (sp) or something like that. *Hint* --> This is where YOU come in. Has anyone done anything like this before (like the stalagetights that someone (Tom/IO?) had in their 4.5-level dungeon) and, if so, what materials, tools, and methods would you suggest? I'm not the artsy/craftsy type and am just learning.

Thanks,

JKW

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3D Cavern

Posted by otherworld - 2006/03/26 12:27

I don't mean to be picky, but these kind of natural cave systems are usually only found in limestone. It's very unlikely that you'd find large caverns in granite unless they were man (or dwarf!) made. It's just too resistant to be eroded by water flow, and wouldn't form stalactites/stalagmites.

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3D Cavern

Posted by weaverjk - 2006/03/26 15:36

Thanks for the note. I suppose if I want to be more realistic, I'll have to research the issue. Not knowing much about the types of stone, I was envisioning a grey stone, similar to that of the DF pieces, for the

entire cavern. I've walked through natural caves before, and besides the tons of limestone stalagtights or other forms of stalagtights, the greyish look seems like it'll work (for me).

In any case, that still leaves me trying to figure out how to create a big cavern wall and ceiling to match the DF pieces.

JKW

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3D Cavern
Posted by Dante - 2006/03/26 21:09

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Otherworld--that's why it's called Fantasy! ;-}~ (just poking fun at ya').

Reminds me of a story of an old gaming buddy of mine. He was running a fantasy RPG for some of his old mates--one of whom happened to be a physicist. One of the party members fell into a pit so my friend James asked the fallen player, a "thief-acrobat", "What do you do as you're falling?" The physicist stopped play and said, "Wait a minute--how long is he falling for?" James said, "I don't know... 10 seconds or so?" The physicist looked down at his scratch pad and started doing some calculations and popped up his head and loudly exclaimed, "That means that the pit is at least 150 deep! Mass falls at a constant ration of 32 feet per second per second!" James just looked at him and said, "Gravity is different on my world." Much hearty laughter ensued.

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3D Cavern
Posted by jkratzer - 2006/03/27 05:53

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Otherworld -

I don't mean to be picky either, but have you ever heard of the Smoke Hole Caverns in West Virginia? Granite formations, and some HUGE (well, 25-50 foot drops, tall ceilings, wide rooms, and a stream!) rooms inside - and as of 1968, NO human development since European settlement, back in the late 1700's. What's happened since then, I dunno; I haven't been back.

BUT, you're right that there were no stalac-agmites in there - or at least, none that I saw.

See ya!

Jim

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3D Cavern
Posted by camoudragon - 2006/03/27 07:25

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ahoi weaverjk. if you want to build your own big cavern wall my suggestion would be. take something to make a wall (piece of wood, plastik or the poly stuff...)and floors if needed. cover that with wire mesh - but while doing it you have to form it (the style depends on the look the walls should have) and put some paper under the parts wich stick out. now cover that with paper mache or plasterstripes. afterwards make some thin plaster (by adding more water) with that it is pretty easy to make stalagmites (put some stuff in you hand, close it and let it slowly drop down on the same spot) or give the walls that cavern look - just let it run down your walls-try to have them not totally straight up while doing it.
for yor waterfall - leave opening and attach either lots of plastik wire or blue cotton strings. to make it look really good, carefully cover those with artificial water or varnish (its alittle tricky).

this is just a quick replie - more later.

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3D Cavern
Posted by otherworld - 2006/03/27 12:51

I don't mean to be picky either, but have you ever heard of the Smoke Hole Caverns in West Virginia? Granite formations, and some HUGE (well, 25-50 foot drops, tall ceilings, wide rooms, and a stream!) rooms inside - and as of 1968, NO human development since European settlement, back in the late 1700's. What's happened since then, I dunno; I haven't been back.
I've been to Smoke Hole Caverns, and I'm pretty certain they're limestone.

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3D Cavern
Posted by RabidFox* - 2006/03/27 21:30

You are partially right overlord; sorry Jim.
There is limestone, but that is not all.
From a geological report I just read, the caves contain.
"Lower Silurian to Middle Devonian sandstones, limestones, and shales."
Granted there is a lot of limestone, but there is also a lot of sandstone.
I checked the Caves' resort site and all they mentioned was the limestone.
I called and a man there admitted that it was just as much sandstone as limestone, but he said the limestone is a greater attraction.
That was after he asked if I was a geology nut. :rolleyes:

That takes care of that, yes?

Now, I just need to contact an old friend of mine and track down those igneous caves I have heard him speak of.
I know there are a lot of old lava tubes, some of them fairly deep underground, here in the Northern American Rockies and in the Sierra Nevadas and the Cascades, but I am not sure if they will meet the

anti-granite, etc. crowd's criteria for a cave.
Some are a few hundred feet wide though.

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3D Cavern
Posted by Celtchief - 2006/03/28 20:52

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There are definately lava tubes that would meet my criteria for a cave

http://webweevers.com/flagstafflavaopening.htm

3/4 ofa mile..I would hope thats a cave...I've hiked in them numerous times. The Boy Scout Camp where I was the shooting sports director is near there.

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3D Cavern
Posted by jkratzer - 2006/03/29 08:24

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You are partially right overlord; sorry Jim.
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From a geological report I just read, the caves contain.
"Lower Silurian to Middle Devonian sandstones, limestones, and shales."
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That was after he asked if I was a geology nut. :rolleyes:

That takes care of that, yes?
Well, I think we can safely say my wrist was correctly slapped. I THOUGHT it was granite, though. DUH!
Heck, if I was perfect, I wouldn't spend so much time hitting the backspace key on this damn keyboard!

Or, to quote a certain retired StarFleet Admiral, "One little mistake..."

See ya!

Jim

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3D Cavern
Posted by jackattack - 2006/04/01 16:06

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This doesn't really address the domed cavern issue, but Fenryll (www.fenryll.fr) makes a very nice resin-cast waterfall and pool that is completely bound by stone formations.

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