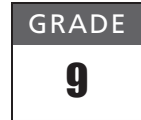


DISTRICT ASSESSMENT OF READING TEAM (DART)
ORAL READING



The Dragon Caves (Faye Brownlie)

Name: _____

The Dragon caves are ancient, formed in the Miocene Period. They are Karst caves. Karst landscapes and caves are formed when water containing carbon dioxide percolates through the ground and dissolves the soluble rock it passes through. In this case the rock is limestone, and the Dragon Caves like most Karst caves, are formed in limestone.

Limestone, a sedimentary rock that contains large amounts of the mineral calcite (calcium carbonate), is formed mostly from corals and the shells of marine organisms that have died and settled on the ocean floor over tens of thousands of years. When formed, limestone is solid and impermeable to water. However, over time the rock may form cracks from the effects of glaciers moving over it, or from other **tectonic** forces. It is these cracks that allow the water to ooze in, start to widen them, and create caves and other features like sinkholes that are common in Karst landscapes.

Halting

Careful

Confident

Fluent

Expressive