

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CALCIUM CARBONATE?

1. What kind of limestone might be deposited in Mammoth Caves, Kentucky?

Stalactites and stalagmites in the cave might be made of travertine.

2. In some areas of the United States, people find a white, crusty deposit forming in their teakettles when the water has boiled out after many uses. What do you think the deposit might be? How do you think it got there?

It might be calcium or calcium carbonate. If calcium is in the water, it could be deposited when the water boils or evaporates away.

3. An aerial photo of an island near Australia shows some blue-green water just off the coast. Why do you think the water is blue-green? What can you infer about the temperature of the water just by looking at the photograph? What kind of sediments do you think you would find on the ocean bottom in this area?

The water is probably blue-green because of the blue-green algae that live in the water. The water is probably warm because these organisms thrive in warmer water. The sediments here are probably carbonate ooze formed from the shells and secretions of the organisms living here.

ANSWER SHEET