

# Europe – Extra Credit

## Austria

Directions: This is an extra credit reading, research and response assignment about a particular location in Europe. You will read a short article and answer questions about it. Additional questions will require you to research further information about the country or subject.

It can be printed or can be hand-written on lined paper. All questions must be answered to receive credit.

**WORLD OF THE ICE GIANTS**

WERFEN, SALZBURG

At 26 miles (42 km) long, Eisriesenwelt, or “World of the Ice Giants,” is the largest ice cave in the world. It is filled with naturally formed sheets of dripping, curving ice, the result of melting snow from the surface flowing into the cave through cracks and crevices and solidifying when it meets the freezing temperatures. Bright magnesium lights illuminate the ice formations, making the scene even more dramatic.

Getreidegasse 21, Werfen. Eisriesenwelt is 25 miles (40.3 km) south of Salzburg. The cave is open to visitors from May to October. Bring warm clothing; the caves are below freezing, even in summer.

📍 47.50778 📍 13.189722



Handheld oil lamps illuminate the dripping formations in the world's largest ice cave.

Excerpt from *Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders*  
by Joshua Foer, Dylan Thuras and Ella Morton 2016.  
Workman Publishing

### Part One – About the Article

1. The cave of Eisriesenwelt is lined with what? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Salzburg is the fourth-largest city in Austria. How far away are these caves from Salzburg? \_\_\_\_\_
3. The coordinate location for the caves are listed. What hemispheres are they in? \_\_\_\_\_

### Part Two – Digging Deeper

4. Eisriesenwelt is a limestone cave. The largest cave system in the world is also made of limestone and is located in the United States. What is the name of these caves, and which state are they in?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Austria is bordered by eight other countries. List four of them. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Caves are one kind of geographical feature found on earth. If you could visit any one geographical site or type of formation on earth, what would it be and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
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