

BRIEF GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF VERMONT

Bedrock History of Vermont	
1.3 billion years ago	The <i>Ancient Adirondack Mountains</i> formed.
450-500 million years ago	The <i>Iapetus Ocean</i> (proto-Atlantic) was a shallow tropical sea that formed when the Laurentian supercontinent rifted apart.
450-350 million years ago	The <i>Green Mountains</i> formed when this ocean basin closed and continents collided during the formation of the supercontinent Pangaea.
350 million years ago	EROSION of the mountains begins!

Glacial History	
2 million years ago	The current <i>Ice Age</i> begins.
21,000 years ago	<i>Glaciers</i> started to melt northward toward New England.
14,000-15,000 years ago	<i>Lake Vermont</i> formed as the glaciers melted then blocked the outflow of water from the Champlain Valley.
13,000 years ago	<i>Champlain Sea</i> replaced Lake Vermont when ocean water from the north flooded the basin. The sea supported varied marine life, such as the Charlotte whale.
11,000 years ago	<i>Lake Champlain</i> was formed when the area was cut off by post-glacial rebound to the north, seawater was flushed out.

*For more details on the geologic history of VT see paper by **Brewster Baldwin** included in the teacher resource box, as well as the geologic summary in **Hands on the Land**,

and the web site:

<http://geology.uvm.edu/vtlandforms/main.htm>

*For more on VT glaciers visit:

<http://geology.uvm.edu/geodept/ugradwww/glacier/index.html>