

# Do You Know What You're Standing On?

Monkton Quartzite was formed 500 million years ago. The sand that created it was actually the beach of a tropical ocean, Iapetus Sea. How was it possible for a tropical ocean in Vermont? Because of continental drift Vermont used to be much closer to the equator. The sand from the beaches of the ocean was compressed under so much sediment that the sand lithified (turned into rock). Do the ripples in the rock look familiar? That is because they are the same kind of ripples found on a beach today.

Many places around Oak Ledge have changed dramatically. However, the Monkton Quartzite is virtually unchanged since its formation.

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