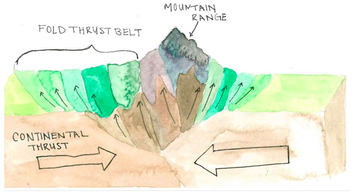
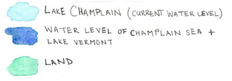
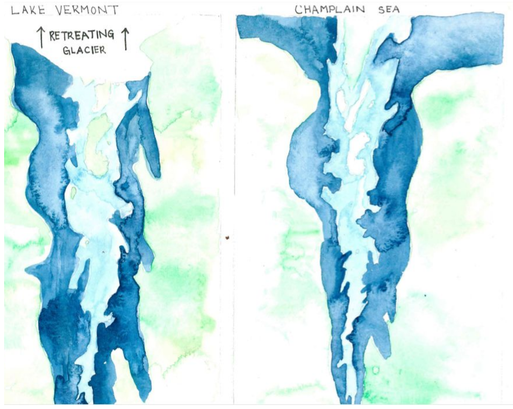
Geologic Timeline of the Lake Champlain Basin

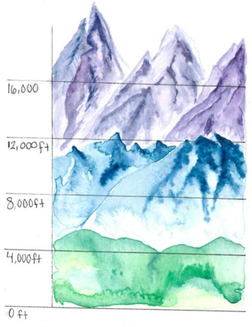






Grenville Orogeny
~1 Billion Years Ago

The collision of tectonic plates within the Earth's crust created mountains where the Adirondacks currently exist. These mountains were higher than the Himalayas are today (~20,000 ft).



Iapetus Ocean
~500 Million Years Ago

A rupture in the Earth's crust and uppermost layer of the mantle caused the continental plates to pull apart. When the continents separated, magma, erupting from Earth's interior, formed new ocean full of rapidly evolving life.

Green Mountains
~450 Million Years Ago

The collision of tectonic plates caused the closure of the Iapetus Ocean and uplifted the Green Mountains.

Adirondack Mountains
~100 Million Years Ago

Heat from the Earth's interior sparked the opening of the Atlantic Ocean which uplifted the Adirondacks, rejuvenating these ancient mountains.

Ice Age (Pleistocene)
~ 2.5 Million Years Ago

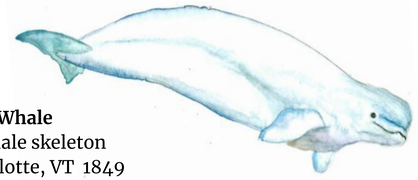
Glacial ice over 1 mile in thickness covered the Adirondacks and Green Mountains.

Lake Vermont
~20,000 Years Ago

A large lake called Lake Vermont formed in the area between the ice to the north and the glacial debris to the south as the glacier retreated to the north.

Champlain Sea
~13,000 Years Ago

The weight of glacial ice depressed the land and allowed sea water to flow south through the St. Lawrence and Richelieu River into the Champlain Valley, forming the Champlain Sea.



Charlotte Whale
White beluga whale skeleton discovered in Charlotte, VT 1849

Lake Champlain
~9,000 Years Ago

As the Earth's surface rebounded from the removal of the weight of glacial ice, the connection to the ocean was severed.

The waters of the Champlain Sea gradually freshened and Lake Champlain formed.

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