

Discussion Questions about Videos: “The Driftless Area” and “Great Lakes”

The Driftless Area (5:17 minutes) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R22RTkcpp-c>
Published on Jul 8, 2013

Solve one of geology's greatest mysteries of The Driftless Areas by exploring the strange ice age forces that helped this 15,000 square miles escape the crushing effects of glaciers for over 2 million years of repeated glaciation.

Great Lakes (5:36 minutes) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibTWQogsbL8>
Published on May 9, 2010

The video explains how glaciers formed the great lakes and how the great lakes are connected.

Focus before watching the videos: How did Glacial Lobes change the land around Wisconsin?

1. What are Glacial Lobes?

Thick layers of ice that moved in different directions in different times. As they moved, they looked like large fingers of ice moving further south as they grew larger and then moving back in a northerly direction as the ice melted.

2. How did Glacial Lobes form?

When more snow fell than melted, ice was able to build up, sometimes over 1000 feet thick. The ice had to move to become a Glacial Lobe.

3. How did Glacial Lobes change the land around Wisconsin?

Lobes scraped away the land as they grew larger and moved further south. As the ice lobes melted, grew smaller, and moved north, they left behind sand, rock, and boulders.

4. How did Glacial Lobes help create the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes?

The Glacial Lobes scraped the land and created the Mississippi River valley and the basin of the Great Lakes. When the ice melted, the water filled in the Great Lakes.

5. How is the driftless area different from other areas of Wisconsin?

The Glacial Lobes never went into this area and did not scrape down the land. There are tall, rocky bluffs in this area of Wisconsin.

6. Why do you think it was good for Wisconsin to be shaped by Glacial Lobes?

The Glacial Lobes created Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and Lake Winnebago, which are important freshwater lakes. At different times, people could get drinking water from them, fish for food from them, travel on them, and use them for recreation (boating, swimming, skiing).

7. Why do you think it was harmful for Wisconsin to be shaped by Glacial Lobes?

The glacial lobes smoothed the land, so there might have been more mountains or higher mountains and hills than currently exist. Having mountains and hills would make the terrain more interesting.

We could also read pages 24 and 25 in *Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story* which reinforce important ideas in the videos. A picture of the Glacial Lobes is on page 24.

Glaciers Exit Slip

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Date:

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