

Before the Basin (top floor)

1. The geology of this area has helped shaped the culture of New England and the Lake Champlain Basin. What are the two distinct geologic features of this area?

Land of Opportunity (top floor)

2. In 1934, the first rope tow ski lift was built in Vermont. What town was it built in, and what effect did it have on Vermont life?

Town of _____

3. Food is a big part of everyone's culture and we have a rich food culture here in Vermont. Can you name three iconic Vermont food items that are featured in the Land of Opportunity exhibit area?

4. Dairy farming is an important part of the culture and economy of the Lake Champlain Basin. Watch the video and listen to what farmer Phil Parent has to say. What are two environmental challenges farmers face that could affect their business?

5. What town in Vermont was named after the Abenaki word for "wild onions"?

Town of _____

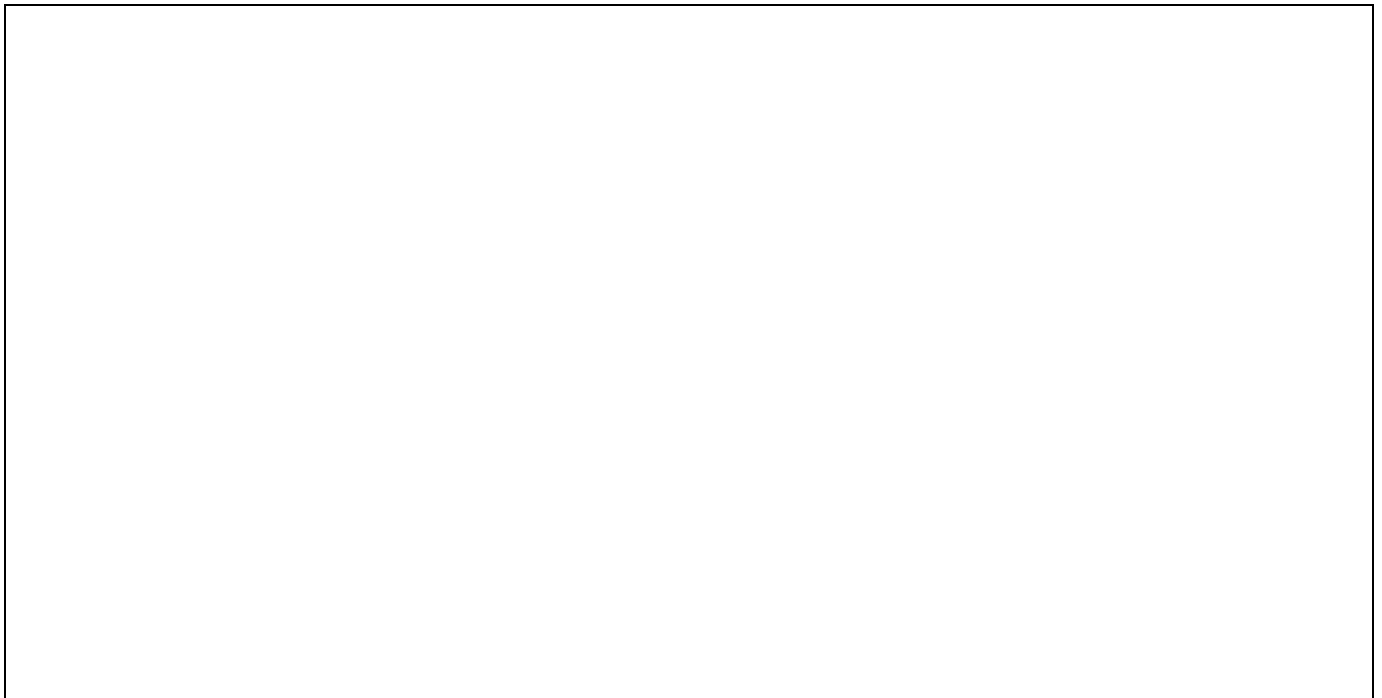
6. Go to *Voices from the Lowland* and *Voices from the Upland* stations. The Abenaki people are great storytellers. Why do you think storytelling is an important part of their lives? Explain in your own words where corn comes from and how the gift of bark helped the Abenaki people.

Action Lab (top floor)

7. What is a citizen scientist?
8. Do you have a hobby or interest that could connect you to a local or global citizen science project? What is it?

Into the Lake (1st floor)

9. Watch the movie about our underwater lake monster Champ and explore the Champ memorabilia. How has the legend of Champ influenced the culture around Lake Champlain? Draw what you think Champ looks like in the box below.



ECHO Culture Trek
Grades 6-8
ANSWERS

1. Two distinct geologic features which shape the culture of this area are the Green Mountains and the Adirondack Mountains.
2. The first rope tow ski lift was built in Woodstock, Vermont. The introduction of this rope tow in this town affected Vermont life by essentially initiating the ski industry. People flocked to Vermont to enjoy our slopes and the economy in winter boomed.
3. Three foods that define the culture of the Lake Champlain Basin are maple syrup, apples, and dairy products. These foods have become a part of our culture and are a vital part of our economy.
4. Two environmental challenges farmers face that could affect their business are controlling erosion and soil fertility and controlling runoff. Runoff of animal waste and fertilizers from farms is harmful to the watershed. If not properly maintained, farm waste can enter the water system and cause algae blooms and other problems for Lake Champlain.
5. The town of Winooski was named after the Abenaki word for “wild onions”
6. Storytelling is important to the Abenaki people because it is a method of sharing their culture and their beliefs with each new generation. Storytelling keeps their culture and history alive.

According to the Abenaki people, corn came from a woman, known as the Corn Mother. The Corn Mother arrived one day in an Abenaki village; she was a stranger. She stayed with the people for the winter and when the winter was over she prepared herself to leave and to show her gratitude for all that the people had done for her, she would give them a gift. This gift could only be given if she was to die. The people begged her not to make such a sacrifice for them, but she was determined. Her only request was that, following her death, the people bury her in a field. In the spring, a small green shoot emerged from the soil where the Corn Mother had been buried. The plant grew and grew and eventually, when it reached the height of the Corn Mother, the people picked the plant and peeled back its leaves. Inside they found an ear of corn and they knew that they must share the Corn Mother’s gift with everyone.

The story of how the gift of bark helped the Abenaki people begins with the Great Spirit looking down upon the Abenaki people and all other creatures. The Great Spirit realized that the humans were the weakest of all of the living things and that they would need help in order to survive. The Great Spirit asked all of the other living things how they could help the humans survive and the trees offered their bark. The bark could be used to protect their homes and build their canoes.

7. A citizen scientist is a nonprofessional scientist who helps professional scientist with their work.
8. Answers will vary
9. The legend of Champ has influenced the economy and the culture of the area around Lake Champlain by providing an air of mystery and intrigue to the lake, such mystery might help drive tourism. Champ is also the mascot for the local baseball team, the Expos. In this way, Champ is interwoven into the culture.

