

**Unless otherwise noted, please use complete sentences. **

Before the Basin

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?

The two distinct geologic features which shape the culture of this area are:

1. _____ 2. _____

Awesome Forces

2. Watch the movie Awesome Forces. Listen to the story that is being told by the Abenaki woman about how the Lake Champlain Basin was formed. According to the story, who created the Lake Champlain Basin and how?

3. Lake Champlain has two sister lakes, what are their names and where are they located? Describe two benefits of having a sister lake.

Lake _____ is located in _____

Lake _____ is located in _____

Benefits of having sister lakes in other places in the world:

1. _____
2. _____

Land of Opportunity

4. Look around the Land of Opportunity on the second floor. Can you think of three foods that define the culture of the Lake Champlain Basin? (hint: find the wire cow) What other role do these foods play in Vermont and surrounding areas?

- Foods: 1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____

Roles Food Plays in our Culture and Economy

_____.

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

Town of _____

6. Listen to the stories of Abraham Awolich, Haris Begovic, and Andy Thai. Why did they come to live in Vermont? How can those moving here contribute to our already rich culture?

7. 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 _____ The introduction of a rope tow in this town affected Vermont life by _____.

8. 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?

1. _____.

2. _____.

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

Storytelling is important to the Abenaki people because _____.

Corn

Bark

Into the Lake

10. Watch the movie about our underwater lake monster Champ and explore the Champ memorabilia. Write a short paragraph about how the legend of Champ has influenced the culture and economy around Lake Champlain. Draw what you think Champ could look like.



ECHO Culture Trek
Grades 6-8
ANSWERS

1. Two distinct geologic features which shape the culture of this area are Green Mountains and the Adirondack Mountains.

2. The Abenaki believe that a creature known as Ojibozo formed the lake. Ojibozo formed the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks by pushing the earth up to form mountains and then pulling the soil down the slopes to form rivers in an attempt to stand up and survey the earth. In the process, Ojibozo's body left an imprint creating Lake Champlain.

3. Lake Champlain's two sister lakes are Lake Toba in Indonesia and Lake Ohrid in Macedonia/Albania. Having a sister lake allows for information about lake health and preservation to be shared. It also creates open discussion about successful strategies for conservation.

4. 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.

5. The town of Winooski was named after the Abenaki word for "wild onions"

6. These individuals came to Vermont in hopes of a better life for themselves and their families. Sometimes they moved to escape dangerous political situations or difficult economic situations. They bring rich cultural diversity to Vermont that adds new ways of thinking, new values and unique contributions to how people work, play, eat, dress, educate and celebrate humanity.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 saying that 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 all.

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 creatures and that they would need help from all of the other beings. The Great Spirit asked all of



the other creatures how they could help the humans and the trees offered their bark. The bark could be used to protect their homes and build their canoes.

10. Every student's drawing will differ. 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 drive tourism upward and would improve the economy. Champ is also the mascot for the local baseball team, the Expos. In this way, Champ is interwoven into the culture.

