

## Lake Champlain in a Bag December 13, 2011

**Grade:** K - 6

**Time Frame:** 45 minutes

**Teacher Content Knowledge:** Lake Champlain is a freshwater lake located between the Green Mountains of Vermont, the Adirondack Mountains of New York with its outlet an northern lake perimeter in Quebec, Canada. Rain and snow melt in spring create a continuous flow down the mountains forming streams, rivers and underground water that eventually flows into the lake. As water makes its way downhill, it slows down in the low lands through wetlands, forests, farmlands, and cities. Lake Champlain is then drained north into the St. Lawrence Seaway through Canada into the Atlantic Ocean. Major rivers of the Lake Champlain Basin are Winooski, Mississquoi, Lamoille, Au Sable, Saranac, and Boquet. Along with water, pollutants from multiple non-point sources plague the health of the Lake Champlain Basin waters.

**Rationale and Context for the Lesson:** Students in Vermont need to become familiar with Lake Champlain and the watershed in which they live. Many students have lived next to the lake, a river, or a wetland their whole lives but don't completely understand how a watershed works and how geologic and biologic features of the region affect the topography, species diversity, habitats and water quality of their region. This lesson will guide student understanding of the dynamic water systems, geographic location, and importance of both living and non-living elements of the Lake Champlain Basin.

### **Vermont Standard(s):**

Vermont Standard	Grade Expectations	Inquiry Skills and Content
7.15	S.1,2	Develop questions around the parts of the Lake Champlain watershed. Predict the flow of water in the watershed.
	S.47	Examine how structures of the earth contribute to changes over time in earth systems.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to explain where Lake Champlain is located on a map.
2. Students will understand how the water flows through Lake Champlain.
3. Students will be able to give examples of living and non-living elements of the Lake Champlain Basin.