Before the Basin (top floor)

1. Were there people living in the Lake Champlain Basin 22,000 years ago? What was here at that time?

2. Find the display across from the Beluga whale dig with the panel that says "First Explorers". When did the first residents of the Lake Champlain Basin arrive?

3. The early Native American people that lived in the Lake Champlain Basin sometimes traveled long distances to find the best rocks for tool making. Ramah chert from Ramah Bay is a type of rock that was prized. Find Vermont and Ramah Bay on the map labeled " Chipping away at a new history" next to the "First Explorers" panel. How do you think the Native Americans traveled from Vermont to Ramah Bay? Do you think it was an easy trip?

Land of Opportunity (top floor)

4. *Recreation is an important part of Lake Champlain culture.* What are some recreational activities that people do in the mountains, lakes and rivers of the Lake Champlain Basin? Consider how they affect the environment. Name two that have little environmental impact (little or no pollution threat) and two that have more harmful effects (can add pollution or harm the land and water).

Recreation Choices That Have Little Impact   Recreation Choices that Can Harm the Lake

1. _____   1. _____

2. _____   2. _____

5. There were two Native American groups who lived in the Lake Champlain Basin before the French arrived in the region. Name these two groups. Did they live on the Vermont or the New York side of Lake Champlain?

    _____

    _____

6. What state is the nation's largest producer of Maple Syrup?

7. What are three other major industries found in the Champlain Basin region?

    1. _____

    2. _____

    3. _____

8. In the 19th and 20th centuries, quarries were a very important industry in Vermont and New York. Draw a line between the state on the left and each of the types of rock that was mined in that state.

                                        Iron Ore
            Vermont   Marble
                                        Wollastonite
            New York   Granite

Into the Lake (1st floor)

9. Does Lake Champlain have any special connection to the 5 Great Lakes in our nation? Choose which answer you think is correct.

    ☐ Lake Champlain is a Great Lake
    ☐ Lake Champlain is the Great Lakes "little sister" and connected to them by man-made canals
    ☐ Lake Champlain has no connection to the Great Lakes at all

Watch the video about Champ. Name one reason why some people think Champ exists. Name one reason why some people are skeptical (unsure) that Champ exists.

A reason to believe in Champ:

_____

A reason to be skeptical:

_____

ANSWERS

1. There were no people living in the Lake Champlain Basin 22,000 years ago. This area was covered in glaciers that were over a mile thick at that time.

2. The first people to settle in the Lake Champlain Basin arrived about 12,000 years ago.

3. It is believed that the Native American people traveled by boat from the shore of the Champlain Sea up to Ramah Bay. It was most surely a difficult trip.

4. Recreation choices that have little impact; swimming, canoeing, kayaking, sailing (without a motor). Recreation choices that can harm the lake; power boating, jet skiing, and poor fishing habits.

5. Iroquois: New York side of lake. Abenaki: Vermont side of lake.

6. Vermont is the nation's largest producer of maple syrup.

7. Other major industries in the Lake Champlain Basin region are dairy farming, apple orchards, quarries, tourism and logging

8. VT: Granite and Marble. New York: Wollastonite and Iron Ore.

9. Lake Champlain is the "little sister" to the Great Lakes and connected to them via man-made canals.

10. Over 300 sightings of Champ have been made, similar descriptions in stories have been recounted and some very convincing photos have been taken. However, there is little real evidence like being hooked by a fisherman, caught in a net, filmed moving or picked-up on underwater sonar. There are possibilities that Champ could exist with the availability of food, sufficient water depth and a longer life expectancy. However, food web models created by scientists that study the lake do not suggest that a creature as large as Champ exists in the Lake.