

Name: _____

Date: _____

Glaciation



Glaciations during the last Ice Age have helped to form the landscape of Newfoundland. The movement of glaciers smoothed and polished the land, eroded lake basins, and carved valleys through the mountains.

The Ice Age ended as the climate warmed. The glaciers retreated meaning that they started melting and getting smaller and smaller. The retreating glaciers left behind a land covered by deposits of gravel and rocks eroded from the bedrock. These deposits are called glacial till. Deep coastal fjords, which are inlets of the sea between steep slopes, were created when valleys were flooded with sea water.


Kettle lakes were created when glaciers retreated. Large chunks of glacial ice, completely or partially buried by till, produced depressions in the ground. When these depressions filled with water, kettle lakes were formed.

Newfoundland lacks many of the plants and animals found in a typical taiga or tundra habitat. Glaciation is the reason for the lack of biodiversity. During the last Ice Age the environmental conditions were too cold and harsh to support plant and animal life. When the glaciers retreated 18,000 years ago, only those animals that could physically return re-populated the Island.

Freshwater fish that were able to swim through the saltwater ocean like salmon, trout and eel came back to inhabit the inland systems. Caribou, a migratory herding member of the deer family, crossed the winter ice formed between the Island and North America to colonize the island.



Questions

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1. Glaciers helped form the landscape of Newfoundland by _____ and _____ the land, _____ lake basins and _____ valleys through mountains.
 2. Glacial till are deposits of _____ and _____ eroded from the bedrock.
 3. Fjords are inlets of the sea between _____.
 4. Newfoundland has a lack of biodiversity because of _____.
 5. Glaciers retreated from Newfoundland about _____ years ago.
 6. Name three kinds of freshwater fish that can swim through saltwater to repopulate the island?

 7. Caribou migrated to the island by crossing the winter ice between _____ and _____.