



TOPIC: NEW YORK AT THE CLOSE OF THE LAST ICE AGE – HOW FAST DID PLANTS COLONIZE? WHAT DID THE ENVIRONMENT LOOK LIKE?

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GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT:

NEW YORK WAS ICE COVERED ABOUT 18,000 YEARS AGO, BUT NEW EVIDENCE SHOWS THE ICE BEGAN MELTING AROUND 16,000 YEARS AGO, AND TUNDRA PLANTS AND ANIMALS COLONIZED THE NEW GROUND. MODERN ENVIRONMENTS LIKE THIS ARE ON GREENLAND AND ICELAND TODAY...AND NORTHERN PARTS OF ALASKA. RAPIDITY OF COLONIZATION OF OPEN GROUND AND LAKE SEDIMENTATION OF INTEREST AS CLIMATE WARMED...POPULATIONS OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS CHANGED

TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW (VOCABULARY): DEGLACIATION, ICE AGE, TUNDRA, ORGANIC MATTER, DWARF BIRCH, DWARF WILLOW, DIPTERA, GYTTJA, TILL

WHY ARE WE STUDYING THIS IN THE POLAR REGIONS?

AS MODERN ANALOGS FOR ENVIRONMENT IN NEW YORK AT TIME OF THE CLOSE OF THE LAST ICE AGE

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT US HERE IN THE UNITED STATES?

HOW FAST DID WARMING HAPPEN IN THE PAST? WHAT WERE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES LIKE? WILL WE SEE RAPID SHIFTS IN PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN THE FUTURE AS CLIMATE WARMS?

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS TOPIC:

LOOK UP ARTICLES ON TUNDRA, ICE AGE, GREENLAND AND ICELAND PLANTS AND ANIMALS

ACTIVITY YOU CAN TRY:

SCOOP A CUP OF SEDIMENT FROM THE BOTTOM OF A LAKE OR POND. SCREEN IT WITH WATER IN A SINK AND THEN DUMP WHAT THE SCREEN CAUGHT IN A PETRI DISH AND LOOK AT IT UNDER THE MICROSCOPE. TRY TO IDENTIFY WHAT YOU HAVE...PARTS OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS...