# Scavenger Hunt

LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN ATLAS JULY 2004

This scavenger hunt activity is an introduction to using the Atlas and to the information it contains.

## GETTING STARTED

If the CD does not run automatically, double click on My Computer, then on the CD drive, then on the **Index.html** icon, or go to **www.lcbp.org/atlas/index.htm** to start if you are online. This is the start page of the Atlas. Now click anywhere on the screen to open the Atlas.

## 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE ATLAS

First, click on the Using the Atlas link in the second paragraph. Read the directions. Click on the Map Index link.

A. Name three topics from the **Issues in the Basin** menu:

_____

_____

_____

B. What four topics start with the same letter under **Nature of the Basin**?

_____

_____

_____

_____

C. What is the most interesting topic to you and/or your group in the **People and Economy** menu?

_____

## 2. EXPLORE YOUR LOCAL CLIMATE

From the map index page, highlight **Climate** under **Nature of the Basin** and click GO. Read the text and double-click on the map to open it in Adobe Acrobat (PDF).

A. Estimate the average annual precipitation near your town:

_____

*(Hint: To get a more specific answer, open up both the political boundaries and the climate maps. In Microsoft Explorer, click on File, then New…Window. In new window, go to map index and find the Political Boundaries map, which shows the towns in the Basin.)*

B. Is the annual precipitation in your area higher, lower or the same as areas directly adjacent to Lake Champlain? _____

C. **BONUS** Why is the precipitation higher/lower/the same in your town verses areas near the Lake?

_____

_____

## 3. EXPLORE YOUR LOCAL WATERSHED

Go back to the **Map Index**, or use the "Quick Index" on the climate page. Find the **Sub-Basins and Tributaries** menu (under **Nature of the Basin**), and highlight the watershed or sub-basin where you live and click GO. Read the text. *If you are not sure which sub-basin you live in, ask your teacher.*

A. Approximately how many hectares are drained by your watershed?

_____

B. What is the highest elevation in your watershed? _____

C. Is there a watershed group in your sub-basin? If YES, what is the group's name?

_____

## 4. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Find the **water quality monitoring** page (under **Issues in the Basin**) and click GO. Read the text.

A. Locate the biological (first map) monitoring sites closest to the outlet of Otter Creek. What is being monitored there? _____

B. Who is collecting the data? _____

C. Using the internet browser, go to GOOGLE www.google.com. Search on the name of the organism(s) being monitored and look at one or two of the sites listed. What is one fact you learned about the organism(s)?

_____

D. **BONUS** Why do you think they are being monitored? _____

_____

## 5. WATCH THE EXOTIC INVADERS

Find the **Zebra Mussel Spread** link (under **Issues in the Basin**) and click go. Read the text, then double- click on the map and watch the animation.

A. Which end of the Lake did zebra mussels first infest 1993? (north or south) _____

B. Name one thing boaters can do to keep the zebra mussels from spreading to other Basin lakes. _____

_____

## 6. TRANSPORTATION

Find the **Transportation** page (under **People & Economy**). Read the text.

A. Why were waterways (rivers and lakes) so important for transportation in the pre-settlement and early settlement periods?

_____

## 7. VISIT A CULTURAL HERITAGE SITE

Find the **Cultural Heritage Sites** section. Read the text and look at the map.

A. Pick the most interesting site to you or your group on the map. What is the site's name, and why would you want to visit it? _____

_____

## 8. TAKE AN E-FIELD TRIP!

Your mission: reach the Atlantic Ocean by canoe! Assuming you had very strong arms and plenty of food and water on board, you could reach the Atlantic Ocean from your town without leaving the water (except to go around rapids, dams, etc). Use the **Lake Champlain Region** and **Rivers and Streams** maps for this activity.

A. Outline your travel path—which water bodies would you travel on? *Start at the river or stream closest to your town. Since you're in a canoe, you'll want to travel with the natural flow (downstream) of the bodies of water to make paddling easier.*

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

C. Name any states and provinces you'd see along the route:

_____

_____

D. If you wanted to canoe back to Lake Champlain by starting at New York City, what waterway(s) could you take to travel the fastest? **BONUS** What year was one of the waterways "built"?

_____

USE THIS SPACE TO DRAW A PICTURE OF YOUR E-FIELD TRIP!

*Thanks to the UVM Watershed Alliance for developing the first Atlas scavenger hunt, on which this activity was based.*