

Hunter College - CUNY
Department of Geography
Nature of New York

Optional Exercise 7: Glaciation in NYS

Check One: For grading For extra credit

Due no later than the Midterm exam.

PURPOSE:

Glacial processes and their resultant effects on the landscape have affected all the counties of NYS. The entire state with the exception of two areas was scoured by moving ice. Every area of the state was affected by glacial melt water as the glaciers shrunk with global warming. The purpose of this exercise is to locate, identify and explain the affect on the physical landscape that one or more glacial processes have had on the physical appearance of your counties and the resultant human interaction with that landscape.

ASSIGNMENT

1) Describe the types of glacial features found in each of your assigned counties (consult chapters 12 and 13 of *Geology of New York*). Be sure to include the glacial processes that created them in your description.

2) Then, using links from Parts II and III of *Exercise 6: Mapping NYS*, find and print a portion of a topographic map from that county showing its glacial features. NOTE: You can use **Google Maps** (<http://maps.google.com>) to locate glacial features. Click on the TERRAIN button to see contour lines. (This map should fit most of an 8x11 inch page.)

3) Annotate the printed map by circling each feature and labeling the type of feature it is, as a drumlin, kame, kettle, glacier-scoured valley, etc. Attach the annotated map to your description.

4) Finally, explain the human-environment interaction of these glacial features on each county. There are many variables such as: Did they hinder or help agriculture? How do they affect local transportation routes? Are they considered tourist attractions? What is their affect on the local economy? How did the post-glacial landscape affect surface water resources? You may include other variables that influenced the area.

For example, in Queens County (Queens) we have a terminal moraine that passes through several neighborhoods that have "Heights," "Hills" and "Ridge" as part of their name. This area was not good for farming



Glenwood/Forest Park area
Terminal moraine
Outwash plain

so it remained forested ("wood" in the name) and then became the site of parks and cemeteries. We also have an outwash plain that includes Howard Beach and Jamaica Bay with a sandy beach on the Rockaway Peninsula that became a seashore amusement area.