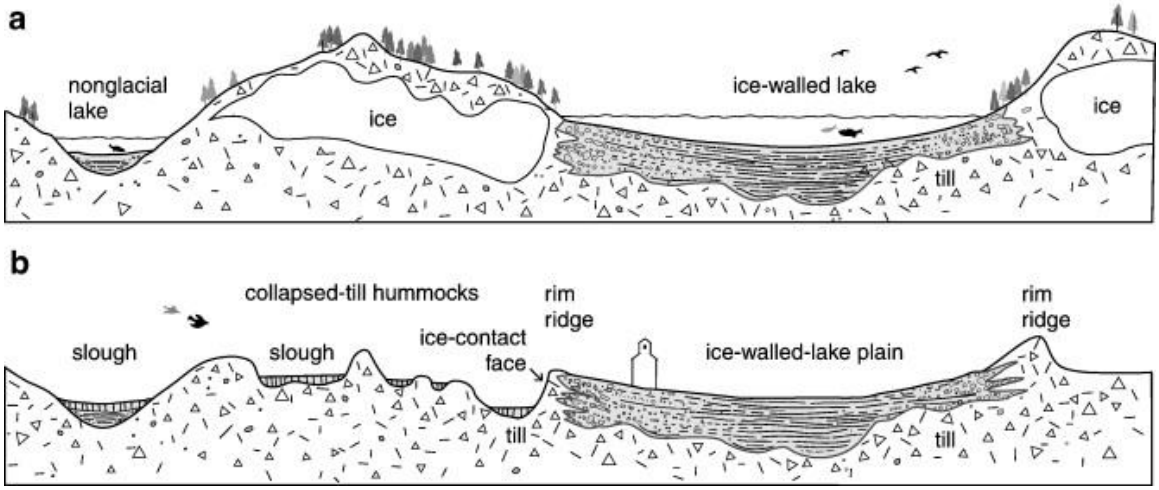
Ice-Walled Lake Plain Modeling Activity

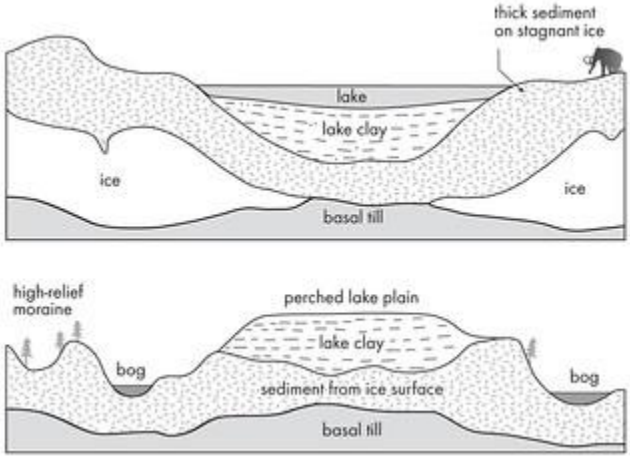
Activity Overview

This activity introduces students to ice-walled lake plains—flat-topped landforms formed when sediment settled in a pond surrounded by walls of ice. Students model or sketch this process to understand how a lake-bottom surface can remain elevated after ice melts.



Materials Needed

- Paper and colored pencils
- Clay or Play-Doh (optional for modeling)
- Aerial photo or map of the ice-walled lake plain (optional)



Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Explain how a pond can be held in place by surrounding ice walls.

2. Students sketch a before-and-after diagram: the pond in ice, and the flat-topped surface left behind.

3. Optionally, students build a 3D clay model showing the elevated lake plain.

4. Compare student models to the actual landform on the trail.

Teacher Notes

• The lake-bottom sediment becomes the flat top visible today.

• Ice-walled lake plains stand higher than surrounding kettles.

• This is one of the most distinctive features at New Hope.