

Look around both sides of the trail. Why might these dead trees be helpful for the ecosystem? They provide great HABITAT for small animals: birds, squirrels, chipmunks, salamanders, insects, and many more!

7

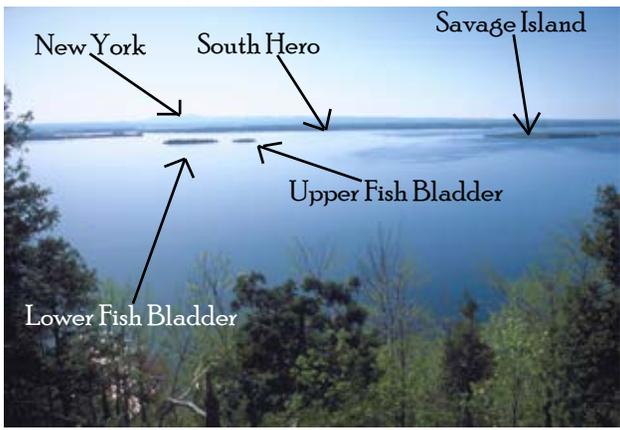
Do you see any animal homes in dead trees nearby? Any other signs of animals, such as scat or tracks in the mud?

For more animal track pictures and other information, explore www.lclt.org with your parents!

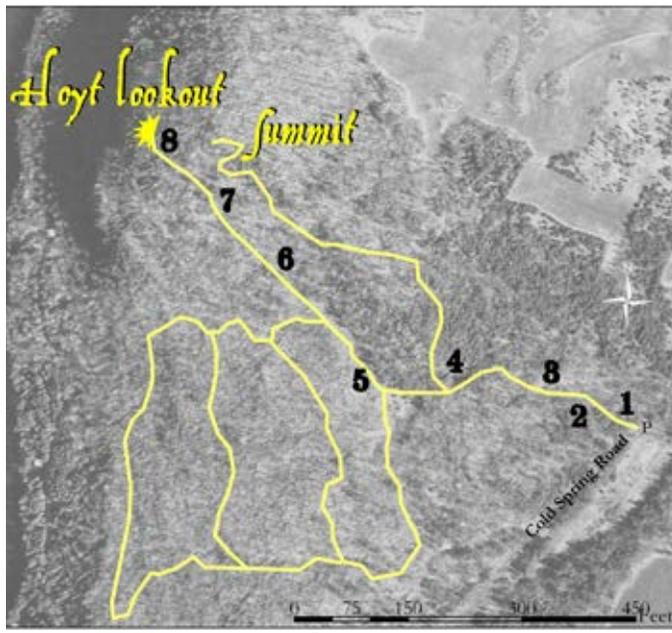
Listen

...for sounds of animals: birds chirping, squirrels rustling in the leaves, or just the wind whistling through the branches.

8 You made it to the Lookout! Look across Lake Champlain to the Adirondack Mountains and Grand Isle. What do you see in between? Try to find Lower and Upper Fish Bladder Islands and Savage Island by using the guide below:



EAGLE MOUNTAIN



About us

The Lake Champlain Land Trust is an independent non-profit organization founded in 1978 that preserves the islands, shorelands, and natural areas of Lake Champlain. Eagle Mountain Natural Area is a 226-acre wildlife reserve boasting hiking trails, overlooks of Lake Champlain, and numerous fields for cross-country skiing. Thanks to a generous land donation by John and Peggy Hoyt, and support from our members, the Lake Champlain Land Trust permanently conserved this property in 1999. We donated the land to the Town of Milton and still retain a conservation easement. Thanks to the Town of Milton for maintaining the trails and being such a great partner!

Do you have QUESTIONS about something you've seen on the trail today? Need directions to more of our natural areas? Want to donate online? Contact us via www.LCLT.org!



*Explore observe
Listen to &
Hike*

Eagle Mountain



Eagle Mountain Natural Area viewed from the Route 2 causeway

Explore

1 Welcome to the Eagle Mountain Interpretive Trail! When you look around you at this first stop, what do you see? Is this a young or old forest? How can you tell? Would you believe it if we told you that this land used to look very different than it looks today? Keep exploring the trail and many clues will reveal the history of this lovely old property!



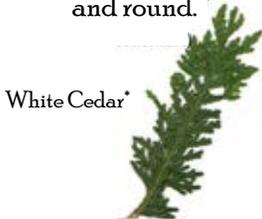
Cedar Waxwing



Bloodroot bloom

2 There are two types of trees in this forest: evergreen trees, which keep their leaves or needles all year long, and deciduous trees, which shed their leaves or needles each fall and regrow them in the spring.

Let's compare two evergreen species that are common in Vermont: northern white cedar and eastern red cedar. White cedar has flat, smooth fans of needles, and red cedar needles are sharp and round.



White Cedar*



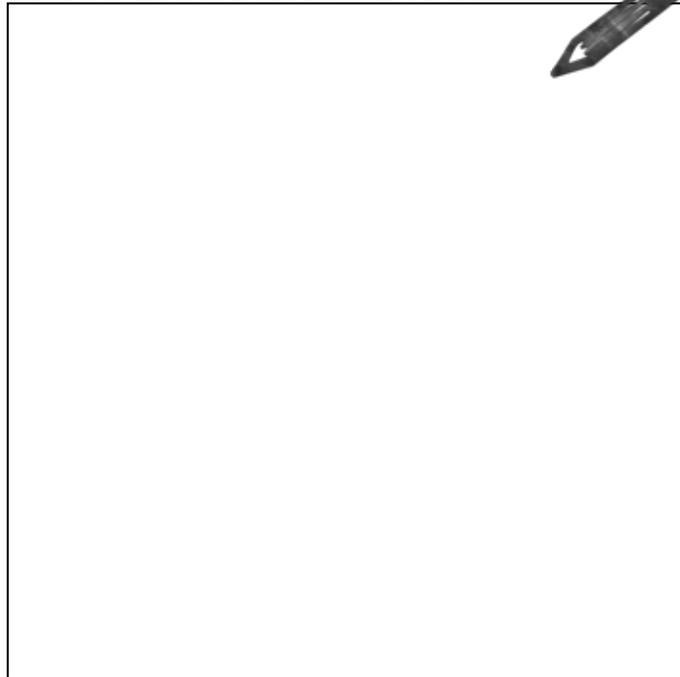
Red Cedar*

Can you tell which tree this is?
(www.uptreeid.com)

3 What do you think this area looked like 70-100 years ago? Here's a hint: It looked much different than it does today! From about 1900 to 1940, this area was a field used for farming. There might be a forest here now, but during that time period the land was almost completely cleared. The apple tree and stone wall are good clues about this history!

Observe

Find a small item from the trail to sketch below!



4 Let's go back to 500 million years ago. What did this area look like then? Well, if you can believe it, this area was actually a sea – it was under water! How do we know that? If you look at the rock, you can see that it is calcium-rich limestone, which is formed when the shells in ancient sea beds are squeezed together over time.

5



Gall in a goldenrod stem

Do you recognize the tall plant with the tiny yellow flowers that grow in this field? They are GOLDENRODS, and they are very interesting because they have a special relationship with an insect. Gall flies lay their eggs in goldenrod stems, and when their larvae hatch 10 days later, a chemical in their mouths cause the plant to grow a bubble of protection around the larvae, known as the 'gall' that the larvae live in.

Do you see any galls in the goldenrods?

Look to the right! Do you see a large tree with this bark, seed, and leaf shape?



6

Want to guess what it is?

If you guessed SUGAR MAPLE, you're right! This sugar maple is so big because it used to have lots of room to grow. The other trees were cleared away because the landowners tapped the maples to make maple syrup!

Do you know how to make maple syrup?

Hike