

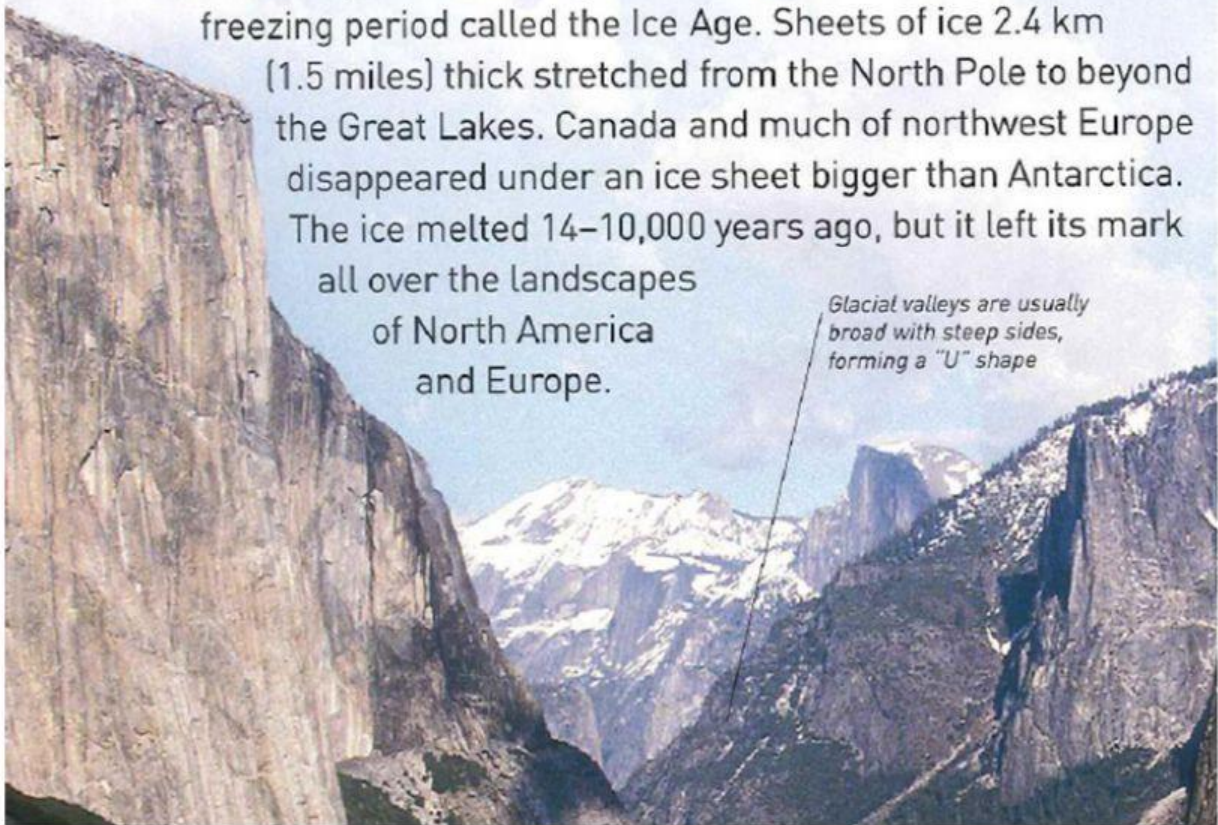
Geography

Read this page or listen:

Ice Age spotter

For much of the past 2 million years, Earth was in the grip of a freezing period called the Ice Age. Sheets of ice 2.4 km (1.5 miles) thick stretched from the North Pole to beyond the Great Lakes. Canada and much of northwest Europe disappeared under an ice sheet bigger than Antarctica. The ice melted 14–10,000 years ago, but it left its mark all over the landscapes of North America and Europe.

Glacial valleys are usually broad with steep sides, forming a "U" shape

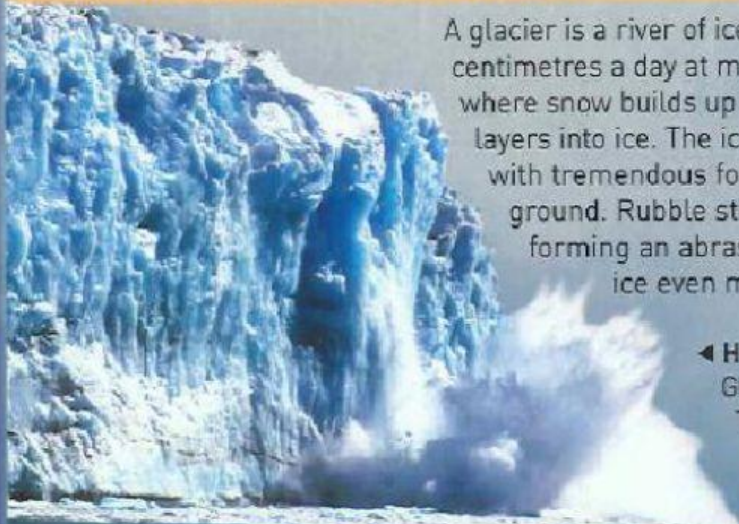


What valley shape does glaciers usually make?

On which continents did the Ice Age leave its mark?

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SLOW-FLOWING RIVERS OF ICE



A glacier is a river of ice that flows extremely slowly, by a few centimetres a day at most. Its source is high on a mountain, where snow builds up annually and compresses underlying layers into ice. The ice flows downhill, scraping the land with tremendous force and tearing boulders off the ground. Rubble sticks to the bottom of a glacier, forming an abrasive surface that makes the ice even more destructive.

◀ Hubbard Glacier

Glaciers are still at work in many places. This glacier in Alaska, with its 90-m- (300-ft-) high terminal wall, flows to the sea where it breaks up into icebergs.

What is a glacier? How does it work?

Ice Age features

If you live in North America or Europe, look out for Ice Age features next time you visit the countryside. Some of the features below are very common, especially in hilly areas. You can see similar features in places that still have glaciers, like high mountains.



◀ Arête

An arête is a steep-sided, sharp-edged ridge formed between two glaciers that carved neighbouring valleys. Hiking on an arête gives sweeping views.

Cirque ▶

A cirque is a rounded basin found high in hills, carved out long ago by the mass of ice at the source of a glacier. Often, a cirque fills with water, forming a lake called a tarn.

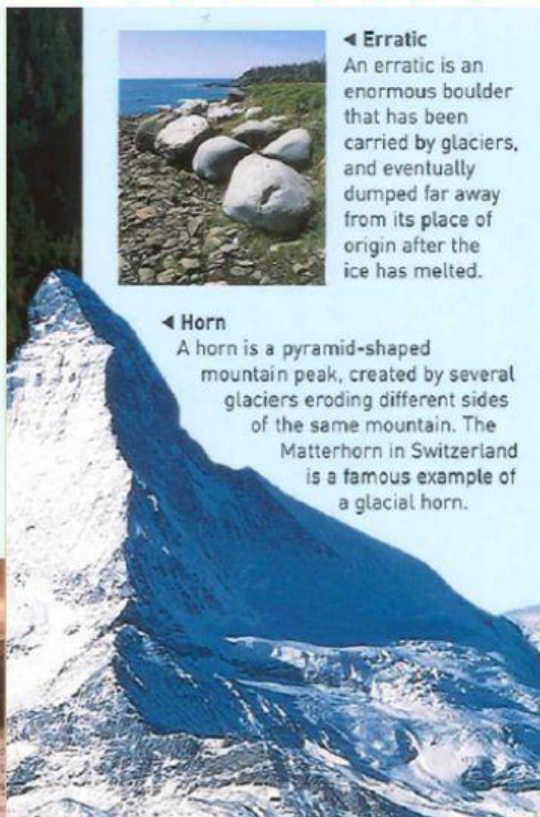


◀ Erratic

An erratic is an enormous boulder that has been carried by glaciers, and eventually dumped far away from its place of origin after the ice has melted.

◀ Horn

A horn is a pyramid-shaped mountain peak, created by several glaciers eroding different sides of the same mountain. The Matterhorn in Switzerland is a famous example of a glacial horn.



Draw each of these Ice
Age features and label
them.

Please send me photos!!!!

In your own words –
What do you remember?

Click here when you are done

