

The Ordovician in New York homework assignment

This homework investigates the Queenston Delta of the Eastern U.S For this homework, visit the following website maintained by the Geology Department at Union College in Schenectady, New York:

<http://zircon.geology.union.edu/Gildner/stack.html>

Note: this website does not require www. at the beginning of the URL

This site contains specific information about the Mohawk River Valley of New York during the Ordovician period.

You will find a number of different “buttons” New York, Map, water-depths, lithology to name a few, that you will need to investigate to answer these questions.

1. What orogeny is occurring during the Ordovician?
2. What mountain range is being formed/built during this orogen?
3. Which direction do the mountains lay relative to the Mohawk River Valley?
4. What two sedimentary rocks types are deposited in the valley?
5. What are the relative water depths corresponding to the rock types as observed in the Mohawk River Valley?
6. What is the source of particles for the shale formation?
7. Is the shale closest to, or farthest from the mountains?
8. What are bentonite beds?
9. What is the source of the bentonite? Why do we see them deposited during the Ordovician?
10. If you were to try and date the rock units in the Mohawk River Valley, which rock unit might be the best to date and why?