

Name: _____

Soil Survey Lab Activity

Introduction

Soil formation is a function of parent material, climate, living organisms, topography, and time. Unique combinations of these factors produce widely different soils. Soil Surveys and soil maps are a basic tool for understanding soil development and characteristics. Soil characteristics can reveal detailed geologic history of a region. Landforms and geomorphic processes often depend upon the physical and chemical properties of soil. Both soil scientists and geologists can benefit from studying soil. In this exercise, you will examine two soil surveys and relate soils information to surficial history. Throughout this activity you will become familiar with how to navigate and obtain information from a USDA county-level soil survey.

Oneida County, Wisconsin

1. When did explorer's first settle Oneida County? What was the primary industry in the county in the early settlement years?

2. What physiographic region is Oneida County located? Briefly describe the region.

3. Find the following climate statistics:

A. Avg. Annual Temperature: _____

B. Max. Temperature: _____

C. Min. Temperature: _____

D. Avg. Annual Precipitation: _____

E. Avg. Annual Snowfall: _____

F. Assuming that the average water equivalent of snow is 6% (i.e. 6" snow=1" water), calculate the contribution of snowfall (%) to the annual average precipitation.

17. What was the direction of ice flow in the region? How can you tell?

18. Draw the symbols used on mapsheet #64 and describe them. Are they associated with any specific landform(s)?

19. Which ice advance is the till located on Map Sheet #64 most likely associated with? Support your answer by proving rationale.