

MOUNTAINS IN VERMONT

http://academics.smcvt.edu/vtgeographic/textbook/mountains/mountains_of_vermont.htm

The Taconic Mountains

The Taconic Mountains are a major range of peaks in southwestern Vermont that extend north to Brandon. These mountains are made of very old rocks. The Taconics are the home of Vermont's important slate quarrying industry. The highest peak is Mt. Equinox in Manchester. The Valley of Vermont separates the Taconics from the Green Mountains to the east. South of Vermont, the Taconic Mountains and the Green Mountains become much lower.

The Green Mountains

The Green Mountains are probably the oldest mountains in New England. They were once much higher than they are today, but over geologic time they have been worn down by erosion. The First Range, or the Front Range, is really just a series of small hills called hogbacks. The Hogback Mountains near Monkton, Bristol, and Starksboro are part of this Front Range.

The Second, or Main Range, of the Green Mountains runs from Massachusetts all the way to Canada. In southern Vermont, the mountains are like a very high, wide, upland plain or plateau. Peaks like Glastenbury (3,764 feet) and Stratton (3,936 feet) rise above the plain. North of Rutland in the Main Range, the mountain chain narrows and includes many of Vermont's highest peaks. Some, like Mt. Mansfield, have fragile alpine zones. These alpine zones are areas containing plant life usually found far to the north in Arctic climates. The spine of the Main Range is broken by the Winooski and Lamoille River water gaps. Other ranges include the Sterling Range in Stowe and Morrystown or the Cold Hollow Range in Enosburg. When the Green Mountains reach Quebec, they are called the Sutton Mountains. In Massachusetts, they are known as the Berkshire Hills.

The Third Range is really a series of smaller ranges. They include the Braintree and Northfield Mountains, the Worcester Range (including Mt. Hunger), and the Lowell Mountains.