Unit 07 GeoClips: Formation of Bear Meadows

So here we are at Bear Meadows, perhaps the biggest and best natural wetland in Central Pennsylvania. Natural wetlands, lakes, bogs, are fairly rare in Central Pennsylvania. And that's because nothing has been making them recently. And nature fills them up. Rocks wash in in streams. Trees fall and leave's fall. And wetlands fill up. So when you see a wetland, you have to say geology made this fairly recently. Or humans made it. And this one's natural.

If we were to go out into this bog and stick a pipe down in the mud about 20 feet and pull it up and split it open, the mud on top has sticks and leaves and twigs of things that live here today. At the bottom it has a remnants of things that live on the North slope of Alaska today. It has evidence of tundra. This formed during the Ice Age. Below that's rocks.

And so it's rocks and then Ice Age and then stuff that lives there today. So this formed when the climate was different. And it formed by those beautiful rivers the rocks that we were looking at just up the hill. When this was tundra, when this was the North slope of Alaska or the top of Rocky Mountain, the hillsides were creeping down in these great rivers of rocks. And one of those dammed the stream. And that made a lake. And since then the lake has been filling in to give us this beautiful wetland that's full of good things all year.