

The Ice Finders:

Questions from Part II : Trading Ignorance for Action

1. What role do fossils play in the early development of stratigraphy? How do Agassiz's and Lyell's interests link here?
2. What convinced Charpentier of Venetz's ideas of larger glaciers at one time? If Charpentier and Venetz are correct what are the scientific implications?
3. How did Charpentier/Venetz's hypothesis about the transport of erratic differ from Lyell/Agassiz? How would you test them? By the way, erratics are found in the Willamette Valley.
4. What is the fundamental reason for Kane's trouble in his Arctic voyage?
5. What did Kane see that those in Switzerland could not see, and what are the scientific implications?
6. Reading page 56, the author uses the word, 'neve', what is the more common/accepted word for neve?
7. What convinced finally Agassiz that the erratics were deposited by glaciers and that the glaciers were once much larger than present? Be complete. Conversely, what convinced Agassiz that water was not the agent?
8. Once Agassiz was convinced, how was his insight different from Charpentier and Venetz's? What did he do that they did not, such that we remember Agassiz rather than the other two?