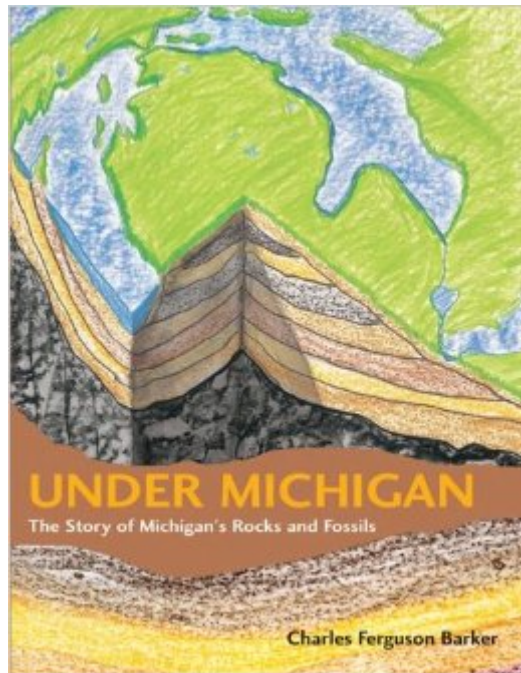


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# Under Michigan: The Story Of Michigan's Rocks And Fossils (Great Lakes Books)



## Synopsis

Most people recognize Michigan by its mitten-shaped Lower Peninsula and the Great Lakes embracing the state. Underneath the earth's surface, however, is equally distinctive evidence of an exciting history. Michigan rests on sedimentary rocks that reach down into the earth's crust more than fourteen thousand feet—a depth three-and-a-half times deeper than the Grand Canyon. Within these layers of rock rest all sorts of ancient fossils and minerals that date back to the eras when tropical seas spread across Michigan and hot volcanoes flung molten rock into its skies—long before mile-thick glaciers bulldozed over Michigan and plowed through ancient river valleys to form the Great Lakes. Under Michigan is the first book for young readers about the geologic history of the state and the structure scientists call the Michigan Basin. A fun and educational journey, Under Michigan explores Earth's geological past, taking readers far below the familiar sights of Michigan and nearby places to explain the creation of minerals and fossils and show where they can be found in the varying layers of rock. Readers will learn about the hard rock formations surrounding Michigan and also discover the tall mountain ridges hidden at the bottom of the Great Lakes. With beautiful illustrations by author Charles Ferguson Barker, a glossary of scientific terms, and charming page to keep field notes, Under Michigan is a wonderful resource for young explorers to use at home, in school, or on a trip across Michigan.

## Book Information

Series: Great Lakes Books

Hardcover: 56 pages

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #452,236 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Fossils](#) #81 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Rocks & Minerals](#) #700 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Geology](#)

Age Range: 8 - 14 years

## Customer Reviews

When I was a child during the Cold War, I was told that our village (population 935) was a target for a Soviet atomic bomb because we lived next to the largest natural gas storage facility east of Texas. We practiced crouching under our desks like millions of other American children, but search as I might when we were let out of school, I never found the gigantic accumulation of storage tanks that I was expecting. This book explains why: the gas is stored deep underground in the porous rock of ancient coral reefs! "Under Michigan" has got all sorts of really cool information about the geology of this state, written in a fashion that kids should find easy to understand--this book is only 50 pages long, with many full-color drawings. It is arranged in chronological order, with a bit of plate tectonics, and short explanations of why our rocks and fossils are arranged in the order they're found. I had always thought that Michigan was geologically dull compared to say, Colorado or California. Basically, our state was a big bowl filled with sea water during much of the Paleozoic Era. Then it got scraped and graded by Pleistocene glaciers, and covered with detritus that the glaciers left behind. However, this geologist-author uncovers many interesting facts about Michigan's beginnings. For instance, "one of the world's oldest known megascopic fossils--a fossil we are able to see without a microscope--was found in the U.P. It is about 2.1 billion years old." This book was published in 2005, and has a glossary and a list of "Places to Learn More about Michigan's Rocks and Fossils." For those who would like to dig a bit more deeply into this fascinating subject, I can recommend "Geology of Michigan" by John A. Dorr, Jr. and Donald F. Eschman.

This is another fascinating book written for children but appealing to adults by the same author of "The Day the Great Lakes Drained Away" (my favorite of the two). This book is a little deeper than the lakes books, as it focuses more on geology. Even so, the simple drawings and explanations of how the state was formed and why land areas are shaped the way they are is interesting and factual reading.

I was disappointed in this book because nowhere did I indicate that it was a book for children. For 9.99 I expected something of more depth and substance. I feel a bit ripped off. That said, it is a well done, albeit very short, booklet or perhaps even a pamphlet.

This book is short and to the point. I just wanted to get some basic knowledge of what's under

Michigan and how it was formed.

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