

# ***NORTH AMERICAN RIFT***

**AGE:** Mesoproterozoic Era - 1.1 billion years

**UNIT:** Rove Formation with Rift infilling

**SITE:** Cerdito Prospect, Ontario, Canada



This is a real specimen of the ***Midcontinent Rift***, a major geologic event that occurred about 1.1 billion years ago in the Lake Superior region. At that time, our crustal plate developed a “rift” forcing east and west North America to split apart from each other while forming major faults and fracture zones in the host matrix.

At our *Cerdito Prospect* site near Thunder Bay, we discovered an outcrop of the Rove Formation, whose black matrix was heavily fractured during the event and infilled with lighter colored quartz minerals – including amethyst, smokey quartz, milky quartz, and citrine. For reasons unknown, after about 20 million years, the rift healed and spreading stopped. A billion years later, Ice Age glaciers carved out the old rift valleys and fracture zones, resulting in Lake Superior’s unique shape today.

Pacific GeoLab’s Cerdito Prospect site is the only location where such stark evidence of this event is preserved in such vivid detail.

**VISIT HERE** to purchase a unique specimen of this material, found and conserved only by us.



Jon at the Cerdito Prospect. Note the infilled fractures below him.



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