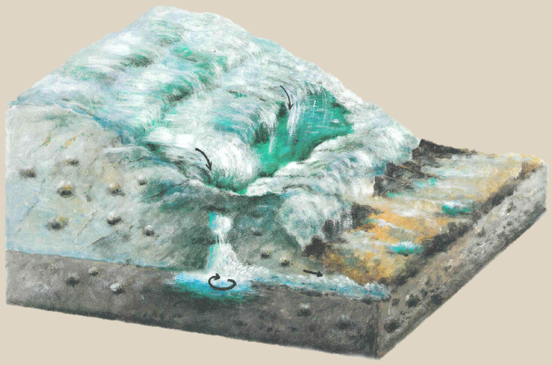
The origin of the Bottomless Colk

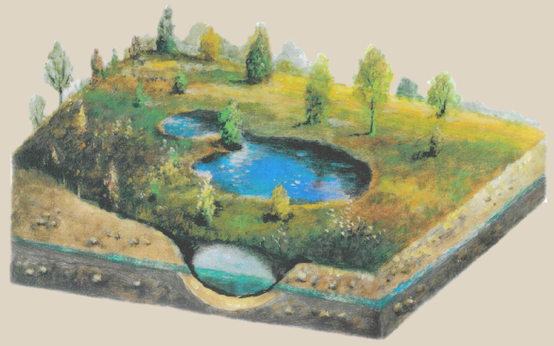


End of the last Ice Age (Weichsel)

The glaciers are melting, and surface meltwater streams plunge through vertical shafts into the glacial ice.
With swirling motions, they scour out massive potholes pits deep within the ice—called **glacier mills.**
These hollowed-out depressions are known as **colks**.

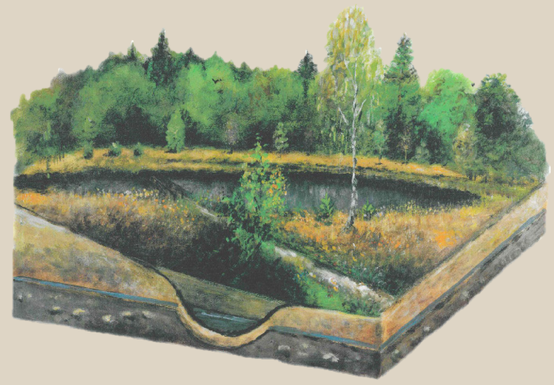
Dead Ice

Large blocks of ice break away from the disintegrating glacier, plunge into the hollow basin of a moulin, and fill it. Meltwater then covers them with gravel and sand (outwash).
These isolated blocks of ice buried beneath the surface are known as **dead ice.** They prevent the hollow basin from being filled in.



Lake

The warm period begins. Permafrost soils and dead ice slowly thaw. The overlying layers subside, leaving behind a small lake. The lake has neither an inflow nor an outflow, is surrounded by nutrient-poor sandy soils, and is fed solely by rainwater and groundwater. The clayey **ground moraine** prevents the water from seeping away.



Marsh

In the gradually silting-up colk, and in the absence of significant nutrient inputs, a characteristic moorland vegetation—featuring **sphagnum mosses**, sedges, sundews, and yellow water-lilies—can develop. The water is acidic and dark-colored. Animals such as dragonflies, moor frogs, lizards, and grass snakes find a unique habitat here.

ca. 15.000 Jahre — ca. 10.000 Jahre — Heute

A true natural wonder

The bottemless colk is a rare relic of the Ice Age - formed by forces of water.
Today, as a mash featuring an open expanse of water, it is a protected biotope and a unique habitat for many endangerd animal and plant species

Living in the Bottomless Colk

Blutweiderich (*Lythrum salicaria*)

The plant owes its name to its root, which ist rich in tannins and traditionally used to staunch bleeding.

Moorfrosch (*Rana arvalis*)

The males turn blue during the mating season.

Rundblättriger Sonnentau (*Drosera rotundifolia*)

The plant is one of the few native carnivorous species.

Ringelnatter (*Natrix natrix*)

It can swim and dive very well. It is the most common snake species in Germany.

Wollgras (*Eriophorum spp.*)

It provides cover and habitat for numerous animals. Its cotton-white seed heads are a characteristic feature.