

Davis Strait Proto-Microcontinent

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Davis Strait Proto-Microcontinent Latest News

A hidden landmass called the Davis Strait proto-microcontinent has been found beneath the icy waters of the Davis Strait, the body of water that separates Canada's Baffin Island from Greenland.

About Davis Strait Proto-Microcontinent

- It is a newly discovered **submerged microcontinent** located around the **Davis Strait**, a large stretch of water **located between Canada's Baffin Island and Greenland**.
- It has been named the Davis Strait proto-microcontinent since it **formed owing to the tectonic evolution of the Davis Strait**.
 - The strait was formed millions of years ago when the tectonic plates between the two islands shifted, reconfiguring the Earth's crust.
 - This resulted in the formation of a thick continental crust in the ocean, which has now been declared a newly discovered primitive microcontinent.

- The **microcontinent is 19-24 km thick thinned continental crust** and is surrounded by two narrow bands of thin (15-17 km) continental crust.
- This **crust separates it from mainland Greenland and Baffin Island.**

Key Facts about Davis Strait

- It is a **bay of the northern Atlantic Ocean**, lying **between southeastern Baffin Island (Canada) and southwestern Greenland.**
- The strait **separates** the depths of **Baffin Bay (north) from** those of the **Labrador Sea (south)** and forms **part of the Northwest Passage**, a route through the Canadian Arctic Archipelago **linking the Atlantic and Arctic oceans.**
- It is approximately 400 miles (650 km) north to south and 200 to 400 miles wide.
- It is **one of the broadest straits** in the world.
- The Davis Strait is home to complex geological formations such as **underwater basins and ridges** that were **created due to the strike-slip faulting along the Ungava Fault Zone** around 45 to 62 million years ago.
- It **triggered plate tectonic movements** in the Labrador Sea and the Baffin Bay, leading to the **formation of the Strait.**

Source: **N18**

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