

Great Lakes

The Great Lakes are located in the northern United States and southern Canada. Together, they are the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world and contain over 20 percent of the world's entire supply of fresh water. The largest of the lakes, Lake Superior, is the second largest freshwater lake in the world. Lake Michigan is the only of the five lakes located entirely within the United States. The Great Lakes were formed from retreating glaciers that left large basins in the land about 14,000 years ago. The basins were filled with meltwater from the glaciers, thus forming the lakes.

The Great Lakes

Lake Superior – The largest of the great lakes is nearly the size of the state of Virginia. Lake Superior is about 350 miles long. It has an average depth of about 483 feet and a maximum depth of 1,333 feet. Duluth, Minnesota, is its largest port.

Lake Michigan – Lake Michigan is the only great lake located entirely within the United States. It is about 307 miles long. It has an average depth of 283 feet and a maximum depth of 923 feet. Its major ports are Chicago, Illinois, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Lake Huron – Lake Huron is the second-largest of the Great Lakes. It is about 206 miles long and 183 miles wide. On average, it's 195 feet deep with a maximum depth of 750 feet. The lake contains more than 30,000 islands and thus, has more shoreline than any other great lake.

Lake Erie – Lake Erie is the second-smallest of the Great Lakes. It is also the shallowest and has the least amount of water of any of the lakes. Its deepest point is only 210 feet. Its major ports include Toledo and Cleveland, Ohio, and Buffalo, New York.

Lake Ontario – Lake Ontario is the smallest of the Great Lakes. It serves as the outlet of the Great Lakes to the St. Lawrence Seaway, and thus, the Atlantic Ocean. Its major ports include Toronto, Ontario, and Rochester, New York

- 1. What do all of the Great Lakes have in common?**
 - A. They all have parts that are more than 500 feet deep
 - B. They are all split between the United States and Canada
 - C. They were all formed by retreating glaciers
 - D. They all have major ports

- 2. Which of the following is true?**
 - A. Lake Erie is smaller than Lake Ontario
 - B. Lake Huron is totally within the borders of the United States
 - C. Lake Huron has more shoreline than any other of the Great Lakes
 - D. Chicago is one of Lake Superior's major ports

- 3. Which of the following orders the Great Lakes from largest to smallest?**
 - A. Superior >> Michigan >> Huron >> Ontario >> Erie
 - B. Michigan >> Superior >> Ontario >> Huron >> Erie
 - C. Superior >> Huron >> Erie >> Michigan >> Ontario
 - D. Superior >> Huron >> Michigan >> Erie >> Ontario

- 4. Which of the following best describes how the Great Lakes were formed?**
 - A. The Great Lakes were formed by glaciers that advanced
 - B. The Great Lakes were formed by glaciers that retreated and then melted
 - C. The Great Lakes were formed by glaciers that retreated and then froze again
 - D. The Great Lakes were formed 14,000 years ago

- 5. Which of the following best describes the chart?**
 - A. It gives opinions about the Great Lakes
 - B. It tells the history of the Great Lakes
 - C. It tells a few facts about each of the Great Lakes
 - D. It tells about how the Great Lakes are used today