

The Great Lakes Activity Pack

Learn about the Great Lakes with fun puzzles, hands-on activities, and colouring pages.



Brought to you by Great Lakes Guide



A Swim Drink Fish Initiative

For more information, visit us at <https://greatlakes.guide/>

The Great Lakes Word Search:

A L W Q O N F M H Y T Q D J W
K D R K W C M L A O H B W Q D
H C A P E E D N T J I S J L S
O F Q N W X A S U P E R I O R
M R R E A G N J D G H S N F P
E J C E I C E X N M Q T T S W
S Q Y H S R N F A Q A J N I K
L F C S L H Q F B R N X P R C
W I C W K B J X I L O X F H N
M I N I G K J O E X R T X E D
R X K M F B F F Q I U S R S Z
U R Q M M V N R H B H I E Z Z
I F Y I Z B E W W H E K T K W
E Y P N A C I R E M A F I F D
Y G E G W A T E R L D N E O N

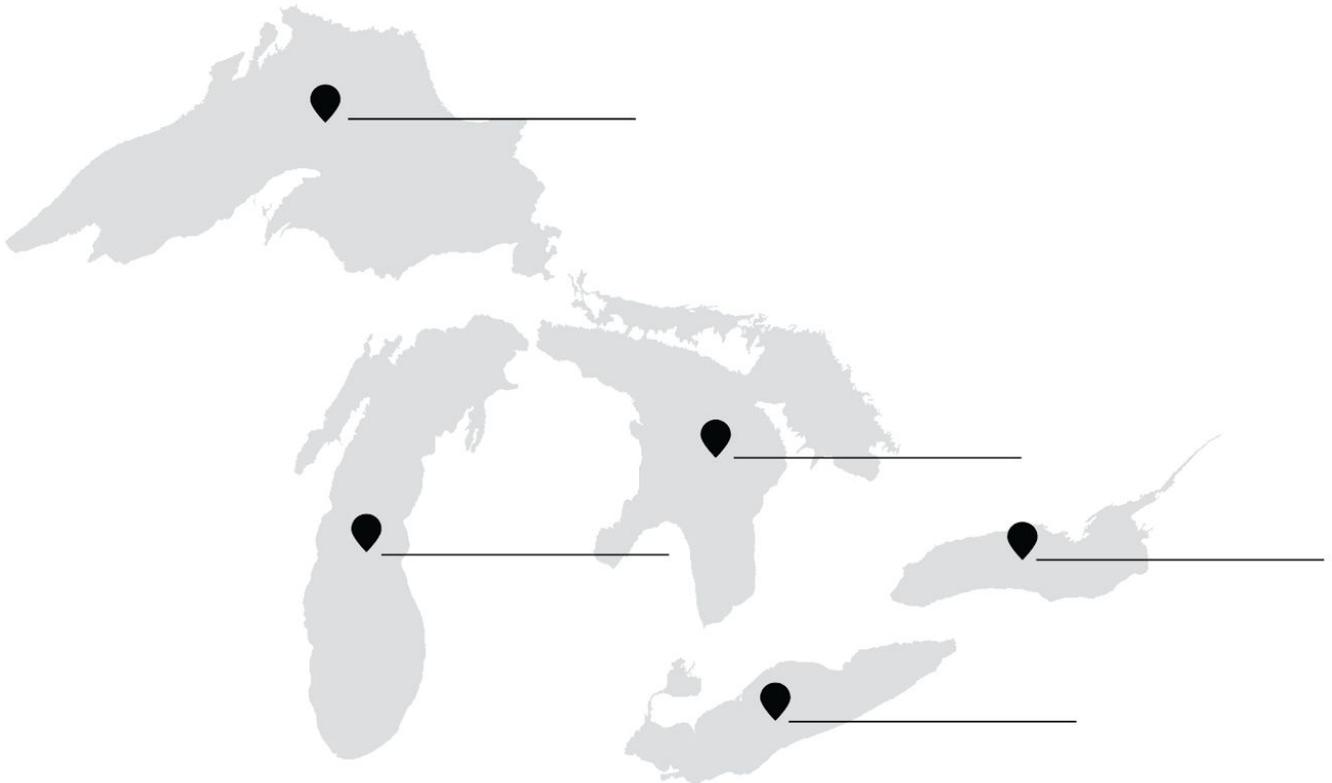
AMERICA
CANADA
DEEP
ERIE
FISH

FRESH
HOMES
HURON
LAKES
MAJESTIC

MICHIGAN
ONTARIO
SUPERIOR
SWIMMING
WATER

Which lake is which?

Label the Great Lakes with the correct name.



LAKE HURON LAKE ONTARIO LAKE MICHIGAN
LAKE ERIE LAKE SUPERIOR

Did you know?

The acronym HOMES is used to help us remember the names of the Great Lakes!
Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior.

Where does the water go?

Draw arrows to show how water flows through the Great Lakes.

(HINT: as we learned in Finding Nemo, everything flows to the ocean!)



Did you know?

Each Lake holds water for a different length of time before it moves on to the next lake. This is called “retention time” (big word, I know).

Lake Superior holds water for **173** years!

Lake Michigan holds water for **62** years.

Lake Huron holds water for **21** years.

Lake Ontario only holds water for **6** years.

Lake Erie only holds water for about **3** years.

Great Lakes Scavenger Hunt

Can you find the Great Lakes in your own home?

The Great Lakes are all around you!

Take a look around your home and find 5 examples of the Great Lakes.

(HINT 1: If you're stuck, try checking in your bathroom.)

*(HINT 2: Niagara falls is part of the Great Lakes and it generates a lot of power...
what uses power in your home?)*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What is your favourite lake?

Now that you know more about the Great Lakes, do you have a favourite?

What is your favourite Great Lake? _____

Did you know?

Over 40 million people live around the Great Lakes!

What Great Lake do you live closest to? _____

Circle your home on this map and colour in the Great Lakes!

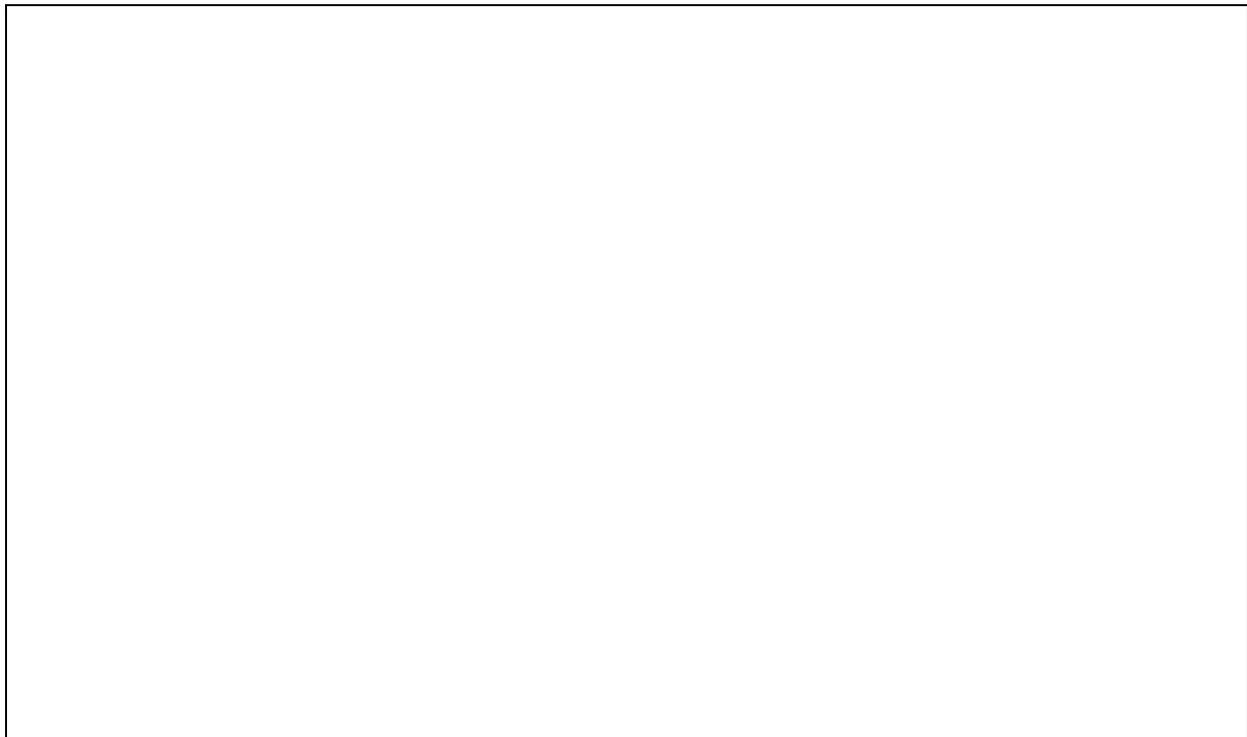


What is your Watermark?

Some waterbody, somewhere, is part of who you are. What is your watermark?

Is there a lake or **waterbody** that is **special to you**? What is it and why?

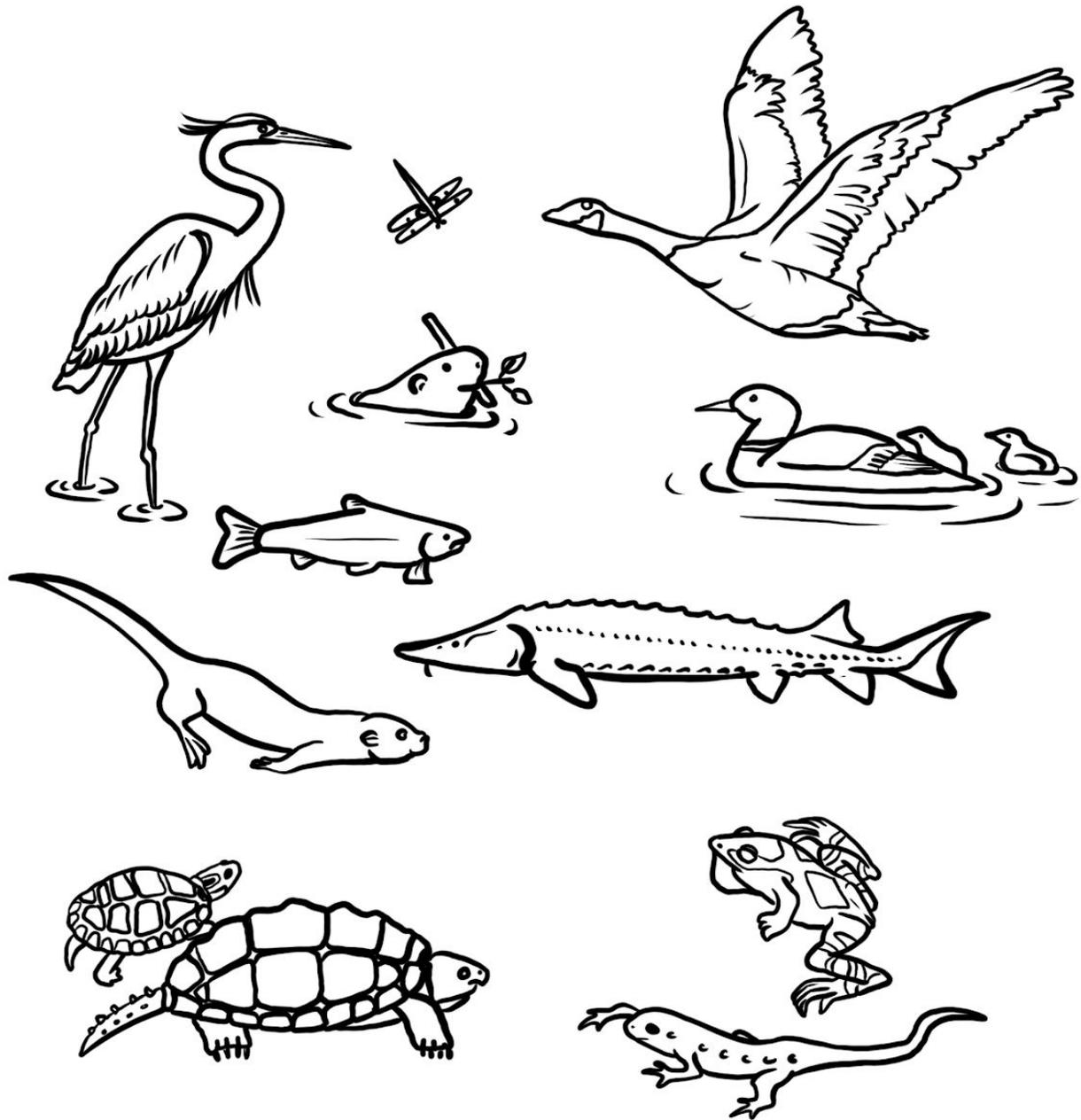
Draw a picture of why this waterbody is so special to you:



Bonus Family Activity: Submit this to the Watermark project online!
<https://www.watermarkproject.ca/submit>

What lives in the Great Lakes?

From itty bitty, to gigantic, there is so much life in the Great Lakes. Colour in some of the coolest Great Lake creatures!



Do you know what these animals are? Label each species.

Let's talk about fish

There are over 150 species of fish that are native to the Great Lakes. Let's learn about some of them!

The position of a fish's mouth tells us how they eat.

Some fish have mouths that point to the surface. This allows them to sit right under the water and wait for their prey to land on the top of the lake.

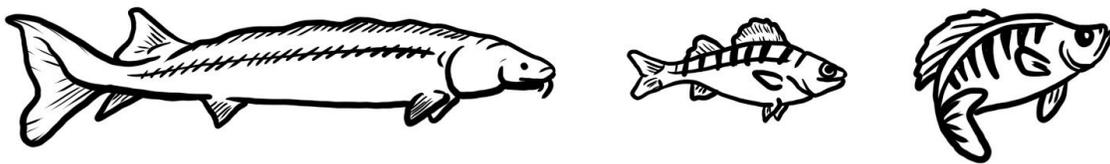
Some fish have mouths in the middle of their faces. This means that they can eat pretty much anything, but mostly stick to the middle of the lake.

Some fish have mouths that face downward. This allows them to skim along the bottom of the lake, eating plants and animals from above.

Take a look at the mouths of these fish.

Which one do you think eats at the **top**, **middle**, or **bottom** of the lake?

Label the fish based on where they eat.



Are there sharks in the Great Lakes?

No, silly! The Great Lakes are freshwater, not saltwater. You won't find any sharks in here.

Indoor Water Activity

Let's take a closer look at the difference between saltwater and freshwater by doing a simple little experiment.

What you need:

- An egg
- A tall glass
- 1-2 cups of water
- 6 tablespoons of salt

What to do:

1. Pour the water into your glass until it is half full
2. Add your 6 tablespoons of salt and stir well
3. Gently pour the rest of your water (plain, unsalted) into your cup until it's nearly full to the brim
4. Carefully place the egg into the water
5. Watch what happens!

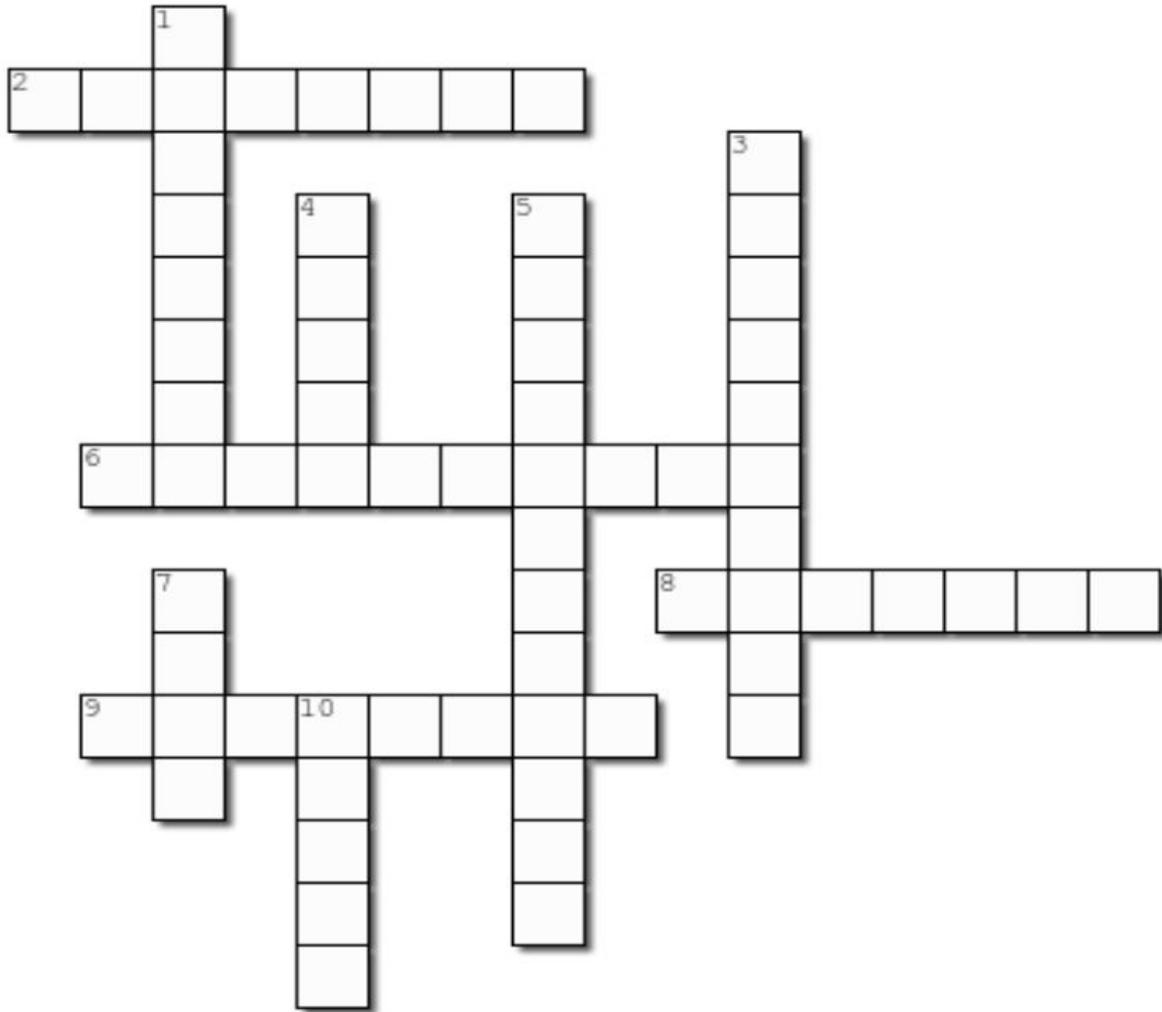
What happened to the egg?

Have you ever gone swimming in the ocean? If you have, you might have noticed that you floated much easier in the ocean than you do in the lakes.

Salt water is much denser than freshwater. When a liquid is more dense, it's easier for an object to float in it. When you dropped your egg into the water, did it fall through the freshwater until it reached the saltwater?

If you were careful when you added the freshwater, the fresh and saltwater should not have mixed. This means that your egg will have floated in the middle of your cup! Cool, eh?

The Great Lakes Crossword:



Across:

- 2. The biggest fish in the Great Lakes
- 6. It's less dense than ocean water
- 8. The smallest Great Lake by surface area
- 9. The only Great Lake located entirely in the U.S.A.

Down:

- 1. The biggest Great Lake
- 3. The river that moves Great Lakes water to the ocean
- 4. An acronym for the Great Lakes
- 5. A waterfall that powers many Great Lakes homes
- 7. The shallowest Great Lake
- 10. This Great Lake has Georgian Bay

Solutions:

