The Great Lakes

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Read the passage **twice**: once to enjoy it, and once to look for details. Then answer the questions. Look back at the text to **prove** your answers.

Tip: Underline the sentence in the passage that helps you answer each question.

The Great Lakes



Along the border between Canada and the United States lie five enormous lakes called the Great Lakes. They are Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. A fun way to remember their names is the word HOMES: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie and Superior.

The Great Lakes were carved out thousands of years ago by giant sheets of ice called glaciers. As the glaciers slowly melted, water filled the deep holes they left behind.

These lakes are so big that standing on the shore feels like looking at an ocean. Lake Superior is the largest of all. It is the biggest freshwater lake in the world by surface area. Together, the Great Lakes hold about one-fifth of all the fresh surface water on Earth.

Millions of people depend on the Great Lakes. They get their drinking water from them. Huge ships carry goods like grain and iron across them. People swim, fish and sail on them in summer.

The lakes are also home to many fish, birds and plants. That is why it is important to keep them clean and free of garbage and pollution.

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. How many Great Lakes are there?

(a) Three
(b) Five
(c) Ten

2. What does HOMES help you remember?

(a) The names of the Great Lakes
(b) How to build a house
(c) The provinces

3. What formed the Great Lakes?

(a) Volcanoes
(b) Glaciers
(c) Rivers

4. Which is the largest Great Lake?

(a) Lake Erie
(b) Lake Ontario
(c) Lake Superior

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **Name three ways people use the Great Lakes.**

2. **Why does standing on the shore feel like looking at an ocean?**

3. **Why is it important to keep the Great Lakes clean?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. How many Great Lakes are there?

- a Three
- **b Five**
- c Ten

2. What does HOMES help you remember?

- **a The names of the Great Lakes**
- b How to build a house
- c The provinces

3. What formed the Great Lakes?

- a Volcanoes
- **b Glaciers**
- c Rivers

4. Which is the largest Great Lake?

- a Lake Erie
- b Lake Ontario
- **c Lake Superior**

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **Name three ways people use the Great Lakes.**
   For drinking water, for shipping goods like grain, and for swimming, fishing and sailing.
2. **Why does standing on the shore feel like looking at an ocean?**
   The lakes are so big that you cannot see across them.
3. **Why is it important to keep the Great Lakes clean?**
   Millions of people drink the water, and many fish, birds and plants live there.