

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Great Lakes

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions.

The Great Lakes are a chain of freshwater lakes located in eastern North America, on the Canada – United States border. Consisting of Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, they form the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth. The Great Lakes region contains not only the five main lakes themselves, but also numerous minor lakes and rivers, as well as approximately 35,000 islands.

Four of the five lakes form part of the Canada-United States border; the fifth, Lake Michigan, is contained entirely within the United States. The Saint Lawrence River, which marks the same international border for a portion of its course, is the primary outlet of these interconnected lakes, and flows to the northern Atlantic Ocean.

Lake Superior is the largest of the Great Lakes - followed by Huron, Michigan, Erie and Ontario respectively. Water travels from Lake Superior through Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and eventually drains into the Atlantic Ocean through via the St. Lawrence Seaway. Lake Superior is at the highest elevation and Lake Ontario the lowest which allows the water to naturally flow towards the Atlantic Ocean.

The combined surface area of the lakes is larger than the U.S. states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire combined.

The lakes hold enough water to cover the 48 contiguous U.S. states to a depth of 9 1/2 feet.

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1. Where in the United States are the Great Lakes Located? _____

2. Which Lake is entirely located within the United States? _____

3. Which river is the primary outlet for the Great Lakes? _____

4. Which lake is at the highest elevation? _____

5. Which lake is at the lowest elevation? _____

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North Eastern United States

Michigan

St. Lawrence

Lake Superior

Lake Ontario