The Great Lakes

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. How many lakes are usually named in North America’s Great Lakes group?
   - A. Five
   - B. Four
   - C. Six
   - D. Eight

   Correct answer: A. Five
   The five names are Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario.

2. Which of these is one of the five Great Lakes?
   - A. Lake Champlain
   - B. Lake Winnipeg
   - C. Lake Huron
   - D. Lake Okeechobee

   Correct answer: C. Lake Huron
   Huron belongs to the connected group along the U.S.–Canada region.

3. What type of water fills the Great Lakes?
   - A. Seawater
   - B. Fresh water
   - C. Brine saltier than the ocean
   - D. A mixture that is mostly seawater

   Correct answer: B. Fresh water
   The Great Lakes form a large freshwater system.

4. Which pair of countries borders the Great Lakes system?
   - A. Canada and Iceland
   - B. Canada and Greenland
   - C. The United States and Mexico
   - D. Canada and the United States

   Correct answer: D. Canada and the United States
   Four of the five lakes touch both Canada and the United States. Lake Michigan lies entirely in the United States.

5. Which Great Lake sits entirely within the United States?
   A. Superior
   B. Michigan
   C. Erie
   D. Ontario
   Correct answer: B. Michigan
   Lake Michigan has shores only in the United States.

6. Which Great Lake lies farthest east?
   A. Ontario
   B. Michigan
   C. Superior
   D. Huron
   Correct answer: A. Ontario
   Ontario is downstream from Erie and lies farther east than the other four.

7. Chicago sits on the shore of which Great Lake?
   A. Superior
   B. Huron
   C. Erie
   D. Michigan
   Correct answer: D. Michigan
   Chicago is near the southwestern end of Lake Michigan.

8. Which Great Lake has the deepest point?
   A. Huron
   B. Erie
   C. Superior
   D. Michigan
   Correct answer: C. Superior
   Lake Superior has the greatest maximum depth among the five named Great Lakes.

9. Which Great Lake has the shallowest average depth?
   A. Erie
   B. Superior
   C. Michigan
   D. Ontario
   Correct answer: A. Erie
   Lake Erie averages about 19 meters deep, shallower than the other four.

10. The Niagara River carries water from Lake Erie into which lake?

A. Huron
B. Michigan
C. Superior
D. Ontario

Correct answer: D. Ontario
The river flows out of Erie, over Niagara Falls, and into Ontario.

11. Which river carries water from Lake Ontario toward the Atlantic?

A. Columbia River
B. Mississippi River
C. St. Lawrence River
D. Ohio River

Correct answer: C. St. Lawrence River
The St. Lawrence drains Lake Ontario and flows toward the Atlantic.

12. Which two lakes meet at the Straits of Mackinac?

A. Erie and Ontario
B. Michigan and Huron
C. Huron and Erie
D. Superior and Ontario

Correct answer: B. Michigan and Huron
The straits connect Lake Michigan with Lake Huron at their northern ends.

13. Which sequence follows the normal downstream route from Lake Erie after its outlet?

A. Lake Ontario, Niagara River, Lake Huron
B. St. Lawrence River, Lake Michigan, Niagara River
C. Lake Superior, Niagara River, St. Lawrence River
D. Niagara River, Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River

Correct answer: D. Niagara River, Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River
Water passes through the Niagara River into Lake Ontario, then out via the St. Lawrence.

14. Why do hydrologists often group Lakes Michigan and Huron as one body of water even though maps give them two names?

A. They share a water level and exchange water through the Straits of Mackinac.
B. They are connected only by underground pipes.
C. They both drain directly into the ocean.
D. They are the only lakes formed by the same river.

Correct answer: A. They share a water level and exchange water through the Straits of Mackinac.
The broad connection lets water exchange between the named basins. They have a common surface level.

15. Rain falling on one hill drains into a creek that empties into Lake Erie. Rain on the other hill drains into a separate river flowing to the Gulf of Mexico. Which hill belongs to the Great Lakes drainage basin?

A. Both hills because each has flowing water
B. The hill draining toward the Gulf of Mexico
C. The hill draining into the Lake Erie creek
D. Neither hill because a basin includes only open water

Correct answer: C. The hill draining into the Lake Erie creek
A drainage basin includes the land that supplies water to its lakes or streams.