

Grade Level	Essential Principles and Concepts for Great Lakes Learning
K	<p>The Great Lakes are bodies of fresh water with many features.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand that you live near Lake Michigan</li> <li>• Identify Lake Michigan on a map</li> <li>• Name at least three animals/plants that live in the Lake Michigan area.</li> <li>• Explain why Lake Michigan is important to our area</li> </ul>
1	<p>Water makes Earth habitable, fresh water sustains life on land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name all 5 great lakes</li> <li>• Identify habitats that are found in the Great Lakes region</li> <li>• Students will be able to explain why fresh water is important to our local habitats</li> <li>• Students should be able to explain the differences between and ocean habitat and a Great Lakes habitat</li> </ul>
2	<p>The Great Lakes influence local and regional weather and climate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will understand that lake waters gain heat in summer months and release heat in cooler months</li> <li>• Students will understand why we get lake effect snow</li> <li>• Understand that the Great Lakes are an integral part of the water cycle</li> <li>• Understand how the Great Lakes are all connected</li> </ul>
3	<p>Natural forces formed the Great Lakes; the Great Lakes continue to shape the features of their watershed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students should be able to explain that sediments are a product of erosion and consist of fragments of animals, plants, rocks, and minerals</li> <li>• Understand that the Great Lakes affects what crops we are able to grow in this area</li> <li>• Understand that the Great Lakes are an integral part of the water cycle and are connected to the region's watersheds and water systems.</li> </ul>
4	<p>Natural forces formed the Great Lakes; the lakes continue to shape the features of their watershed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand that the shoreline of the Great Lakes changes due to erosion.</li> <li>• Understand that lake level changes influence the</li> </ul>

	<p>physical features of the Great Lakes coast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will understand the roles of glaciers in forming the Great Lakes</li> <li>• Students will understand that the waters of the Great Lakes have been significant to historical settlement (lake names, place names, landmarks have Native American/immigrant origins).</li> </ul>
5	<p>The Great Lakes support a broad diversity of life and ecosystems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will know that the Great Lakes contain nearly 20% of the Earth’s fresh surface water</li> <li>• Understand that the Great Lakes watershed supports organisms from every kingdom on Earth</li> <li>• The Great Lakes habitats have been altered by invasive species</li> <li>• Students will understand the concept of a watershed and how it impacts ecosystems and water quality</li> </ul>
Middle School	<p>The Great Lakes are socially, economically, and environmentally significant to the region, nation, and planet. Humans and their watersheds are inextricably connected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will understand the struggle between industry and preservation( Steel Mills, Port of Indiana, Save the Dunes, State and National Parks)</li> <li>• Local and National laws regulate what can be put into and taken out of the Great Lakes.</li> <li>• Students will understand the diverse economic importance of the Great Lakes</li> <li>• Students will identify the Great Lakes as an important element in the heritage of many cultures</li> </ul>