



THE
GREAT
LAKES

OUR FRESHWATER TREASURE

by Barb Rosenstock

Illustrated by Jamey Christoph

EDUCATORS' GUIDE

Educator's Guide for **The Great Lakes: Our Freshwater Treasure**



By Barb Rosenstock

Illustrated by Jeremy Christoph

Educator's Guide by Lorraine Ledy

About the Book

A stunning picture book about the five largest lakes in North America - how they formed, the importance of their abundant freshwater, and how they've become a national treasure - in the latest book from the author of Caldecott Honor book *The Nony Point Box*.

The Great Lakes—Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior—are five blue jewels set a bit off center in a belt across North America's middle. Bordered by eight states and part of Canada, the Lakes hold 21% of the world's fresh water. How did these incredible lakes get there? And what can we do to preserve such a treasure?

Follow along as a drop of water in this enormous system and uncover its dramatic journey from lake to river to lake, over Niagara Falls to lake and river again, and finally into the Atlantic Ocean.

About the Author

Barb Rosenstock is the author of multiple children's picture books that combine deep research and playful language. Her book, *The Nony Point Box*, illustrated by Mary GrandPré, received a Caldecott Honor. Other titles include *The Mystery of the Monarchs*, *Oto and Will Discover the Deep*, *The Secret Kingdom*, and *The Camping Trip that Changed America*. Awards include an Orbis Pictus Honor and a Sydney Taylor Honor, as well as numerous national, educational, and state recognitions. Barb loves sharing stories and inspiring students in schools and libraries across the country. She lives with her family near Chicago.

About the Illustrator

Jeremy Christoph has illustrated over 20 picture books including *StoneWall: A Building, An Uprising, A Revolution* (winner of the Martin Luther King I Have a Dream Prize), *Clockwork Train Rooms* about Trains (a New York Public Library Best Book of 2019), and *Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America* (winner of the 2015 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Children's Literary Work). An old soul, his work draws inspiration from vintage travel posters, comic books, and history paintings alike. A former resident of Ohio, he lives in New Hampshire with his husband and crazy dogs.

Text Set to Accompany The Great Lakes: Our Freshwater Treasures

Primary Sources & Research Materials

These texts tell readers more about the Great Lakes.



Great Lakes Commission. About the Lakes

The Great Lakes Commission website includes short articles about each of the Great Lakes, as well as photographs sharing some of their special landmarks.

Great Lakes Now! Virtual Field Trip Videos

These virtual field trip videos from PBS Learning Media include an exploration of coastal wetlands, an explanation of algal blooms, and a video all about lake sturgeon. Though the videos are targeted for 6th-8th grades, they can be used in 3rd grade and up.



Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Photo Collection

This collection of photographs contains so much to explore. From photos of types of fish to documented research missions to fishery law enforcement, these photographs document the many ways in which humans and nature interact in the ecosystems of the Great Lakes. Selecting photos to share with students ahead of time is recommended.

Content Connections

These texts explore topics such as land preservation, ecological diversity, and the interactions humans have with the Great Lakes.



Great Lakes Shoreline Erosion Handbook

Many students study erosion, as well as emergency management related to natural disaster and ecological change. Intermediate students can analyze this handbook to learn more about how the government works to protect the Great Lakes and the people who call the region home.

NPR Photo Story: Great Lakes ice coverage declines as the climate warms

This collection of photographs and stories from NPR explains how a warming climate is changing the makeup of the Great Lakes during the winter season.



Great Lakes in My World Creature Cards

These Great Lakes in My World creature cards share more information about the plants, animals, and insects that call the Great Lakes home. One side of each card has an illustration of the creature, and the other includes facts about the "who," "what," and "where," plus interesting facts.

Michigan's Backyard Insect Identification Guide

This guide to the insects that can be found in the Great Lakes region helps readers understand its part as a special landscape. There will be many connections to the Great Lakes origin story explained in *The Great Lakes: Our Freshwater Treasures*.





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