The Great Lakes
General Characteristics

- Nicknamed the “Inland Seas”
- Fresh water
- Located along the Canadian-US Boarder
- All over 7000 square miles
- Serve as vital link in water way that stretches from Duluth, MN* to the Atlantic Ocean
  - *It is possible to make it even further but not with modern vessels
General Characteristics Continued

- Contain 1/5 of the world’s supply of fresh water
- Contain enough water to cover the United States in 9.5 feet of water
- Enough coastline that if stretched out would reach 44% around the world
- Boarders 8 US States and 2 Canadian Providences
Lake Ontario
Lake Ontario

- Smallest of the five
  - 7540 sq mi
- Average Depth
  - 283 feet
- Maximum Depth
  - 808 feet

- Eastern most lake
- St Lawrence River flows east out of Lake Ontario on towards Atlantic
- Niagara Falls lies in between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie
Niagara Falls

• 167 foot drop

• Made up of three separate drops (Horseshoe, American, and Bridal Veil)

• Most popular honeymoon spot in North America
Lake Erie

- Second Smallest
  - 9940 Square Miles
- Average Depth
  - 62 feet
- Maximum Depth
  - 210 feet
- Connected to Hudson River via the Erie Canal
- Water flows east out of Lake Erie, over Niagara falls
- Around 300 feet higher than Lake Ontario (Elevation)
Lake Huron

- Second Largest
  - 23,010 Square Miles
- Average Depth
  - 195 feet
- Maximum Depth
  - 770 feet
- Connected to three of the other Great Lakes (Erie, Michigan, Superior)
- Separated from Lake Michigan by Straits of Mackinac
Sault Ste Marie

- “Rapids of Saint Mary”
- Connect Lake Huron and Lake Superior
- Is the site of the oldest settlement in the Midwest (City of Sault Ste Marie) (3rd oldest west of Appalachians)
Lake Michigan
Lake Michigan

- Third Smallest
  - 22,400 Square Miles
- Average Depth
  - 279 feet
- Maximum Depth
  - 923 feet

- Second Largest by Volume
- Only Lake that does not border Canada
- No definitive end to Lake Michigan and start of Lake Huron
- Has largest city of the Great Lakes on its shores (Chicago, Illinois)
Lake Superior

- Largest of Lakes
  - 31,820 Square Miles
- Average Depth
  - 483 feet
- Maximum Depth
  - 1332 feet

- Largest Freshwater lake in world by area
- Large enough to fit all the Great Lakes inside
- Clearest (Can see 27 feet)
- Contains western most port on Eastern seaboard (Duluth, MN)
Close but Not Quite

- Lake Winnipeg
  - 9,465 square miles
- Lake of the Woods
  - 1,679 square miles
- Rainy Lake
  - 345 square miles
- Lake St. Clair
  - 430 square miles
Sources