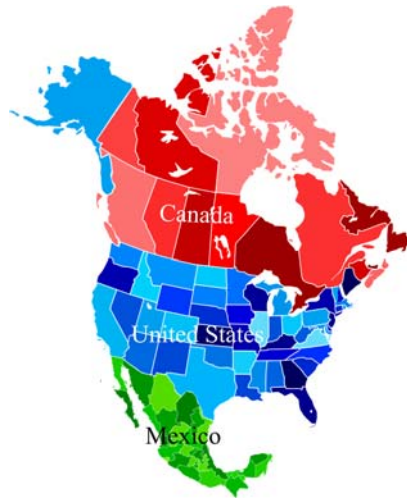


# The Great Lakes

Susan LaBella



Ms. Vasquez stood in front of her second-grade class. She pointed at a map of the continent of North America.

“Do you see these big blue areas in the middle of the continent?” she asked. “They are known as the Great Lakes. There are five of them.” She went on to say, “These big bodies of water are called Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie.” As she said each name, Ms. Vasquez touched a different blue place on the map.

Their teacher then pointed below and above the Great Lakes. “These lakes are on the border between two big countries. Who can tell me which countries they are?”

“The United States!” said Jennifer.

“And Canada,” added Eli.

“You are both correct,” said Ms. Vasquez. “And these big lakes are filled with fresh water. The water in them is not salty.”

Alejandro raised his hand. “Are there fish in the Great Lakes, Ms. Vasquez?”

“Yes,” she replied. “About three hundred and fifty kinds of fish live there. And the lakes give fresh water to more than forty million people.”

“Wow!” said Mina. “I can see why they are called the Great Lakes.”

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Where can the Great Lakes be found?

- A) in the middle of South America
- B) in the middle of Europe
- C) in the middle of North America

2. What does Ms. Vasquez list in the second paragraph of the story?

- A) the names of the continents
- B) the names of the Great Lakes
- C) the names of the countries in North America

3. "These big bodies of water are called Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie." As she said each name, Ms. Vasquez touched a different blue place on the map.

What can you conclude based on this evidence?

- A) On this map, blue places show where water is.
- B) These five lakes all have very clean, blue water.
- C) These five lakes are all the exact same size.

4. Based on the story, where are the United States and Canada located?

- A) above and below the Great Lakes
- B) to the left and right of the Great Lakes
- C) on the other side of the world from the Great Lakes

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- A) Ms. Vasquez's class learns about the Great Lakes, five big lakes in North America.
- B) Ms. Vasquez's class learns about the different countries in North America.
- C) Ms. Vasquez's class learns about different saltwater and freshwater lakes.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

“And these big lakes are filled with fresh water. The water in them is not salty.”

Based on these sentences, what is “fresh water?”

- A) water that is not salty
- B) water from any lake
- C) water that is salty

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

The water in the Great Lakes is not salty, \_\_\_\_\_ they can give fresh water to many people.

- A) so
- B) because
- C) but

8. How many kinds of fish live in the Great Lakes?

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9. How are the Great Lakes helpful to millions of people?

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10. Mina says that she can see why these lakes are called the Great Lakes. Why might these lakes be called “great?” Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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