Journey to the Sea

Grade Level: 5-8
Subject Areas: Earth and Space Science
Duration: 50 minutes or less
Setting: classroom
Skills: organizing information and applying learned infromation
Vocabulary: watershed

Related State Content Benchmark Objectives

- **Describe and identify surface features using maps.**
- **Describe how rainwater in Michigan reaches the ocean.**

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- identify the Great Lakes and connecting channels;
- delineate the Great Lakes watershed; and,
- show how water flows out of the Great Lakes.

Materials

- drawing of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River
- colored markers or pencils

The Activity

1. Make copies of "The Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River" and distribute one/every two students.
2. Ask students to label the five Great Lakes on this drawing. You might give them the acronym (HOMES), or ask them to come up with an acronym that will help them remember the names of the five Great Lakes. Students should also label connecting channels: Niagara River (Falls), St. Lawrence River, St. Mary's River, St. Clair River, and the Detroit River.
3. Given the information below, students should be able to show how water flows out of the Great Lakes. Lake levels are noted in feet and meters above sea level. A small amount of water flows from Lake Michigan via the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to the Des Plaines River-Illinois River-Mississippi River. Lake levels taken from Table 1 of *The Great Lakes: An Environmental Atlas and Resource Book*, 1995, U.S. EPA and Environment Canada.

Lake Superior	183 meters	600 feet
Lake Michigan	176 meters	577 feet
Lake Huron	176 meters	577 feet
Lake Erie	173 meters	569 feet
Lake Ontario	74 meters	243 feet

4. Delineate the boundary of the Great Lakes watershed (basin) using a colored pencil or marker. See the two related activities: "Watershed View of the Bay" and "Building Your Own Watershed".

THE GREAT LAKES

Label the map below using the lake names, lake levels and connecting channel names.
Draw arrows to show how water flows out of the Great Lakes and towards the Atlantic Ocean

LAKES AND LAKE LEVELS:

Lake Superior	183 m	(600 ft.)
Lake Michigan	176 m	(577 ft.)
Lake Huron	176 m	(577 ft.)
Lake Erie	173 m	(569 ft.)
Lake Ontario	74 m	(243 ft.)

CONNECTING CHANNELS:

St. Mary's River
St. Clair River
Detroit River
Niagara River
St. Lawrence River

THE GREAT LAKES – TEACHER'S PAGE

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