Great Ships ~ Great Lakes: Did You Know QUIZ

Find out how knowledgeable you are about Great Lakes shipping by taking this quiz! Are you a:

Deck Hand = (0-3 correct answers) Yikes! You’re heading for a shipwreck!!
First Mate = (4-7 correct answers) Get the books out and study up!
Engineer = (8-12 correct answers) Good job!
Captain = (13-15 correct answers) WOW!!

1. Out of every $100 spent by Americans, how many dollars are involved with Great Lakes shipping?
   A. One dollar
   B. Five dollars
   C. Ten dollars
   D. Twenty dollars

2. One 1000-foot Great Lakes ship can carry the same amount of cargo as how many fully-loaded semi-trucks?
   A. About 50 trucks
   B. About 100 trucks
   C. About 1,000 trucks
   D. About 2,000 trucks

3. How much oil can be spilled or discharged by a Great Lakes ship without breaking the law?
   A. Not even one drop
   B. Not more than one gallon
   C. Not more than 100 gallons
   D. Not more than 1,000 gallons

4. How many locks are available for the 1000-foot cargo ships to pass through the Soo locks?
   A. One
   B. Two
   C. Three
   D. Four
5. Why can’t Great Lakes cargo ships travel throughout the world?

A. U.S. law only allows travel in the Great Lakes
B. Great Lakes cargo ships can and do travel to all world ports
C. Great Lakes vessels are too large
D. Great Lakes vessels cannot withstand salty ocean water

6. How long does an ocean-going cargo vessel usually last?

A. 20 years
B. 30 years
C. 50 years
D. 80 years

7. Which of the following make up “The Big Three” cargoes carried by U.S.–flag ships in order of tonnage on the Great Lakes?

A. Limestone
B. Coal
C. Iron ore (taconite pellets)
D. Salt
E. Grain
F. Liquid bulk (oil and gasoline)

8. A 1000-foot “laker” can hold enough iron pellets to make how many automobiles in the U.S.?

A. 500
B. 5,000
C. 15,000
D. 1 million

9. About how many dollars are lost when a 1000-foot Great Lakes cargo hauler must wait to dock, load or pass through a lock?

A. $500 per hour
B. $1000 per hour
C. $2500 per hour
D. $10,000 per hour
10. How many hours does it take to load a 1000-foot Great Lakes ship with iron ore pellets?

A. As little as 4 hours  
B. As little as 8 hours  
C. Only half a day (12 hours)  
D. One day (24 hours)

11. How many crew members does it take to load a 1000-foot “laker” with a full load?

A. 1  
B. 10  
C. 20  
D. 50

12. What percentage of the United State’s iron ore used in steel production passes through the Poe lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan?

A. 10%  
B. 25%  
C. 90%  
D. None

13. What is “Operation Taconite” run by the U.S. Coast Guard at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan?

14. During which month has there been the greatest number of shipwrecks on the Great Lakes?

15. What is the total number of lives lost on the Great Lakes in shipping-related casualties in recorded history?

A. 500  
B. 5,000  
C. 30,000  
D. 50,000
Great Ships ~ Great Lakes: Did You Know Quiz ANSWERS

1. Out of every $100.00 spent by Americans, how many dollars are involved with Great Lakes shipping?
   D. Twenty dollars. Amazing right? Well, maybe not so amazing when you realize that iron ore for making American steel, as well as other raw materials such as coal for energy, grain for bread and pasta, and limestone for cement are some of the biggest cargoes hauled on the Great Lakes.

2. One 1,000-foot Great Lakes vessel can carry the same amount of bulk cargo (such as coal or taconite) as how many fully loaded semi trucks?
   D. 2300 trucks! Using Great Lakes shipping to move raw materials keeps our roads clear for other traffic and reduces fuel costs, road wear and air pollution as well. Maritime shipping is safer too! The number of accidents with ships is a tiny fraction of the accidents involving trucks, even considering those legendary Great Lakes storms!

3. How much oil can be spilled by a Great Lakes ship without breaking the law?
   A. Not even one drop! The laws that protect our Great Lakes waters are tough and well enforced! If the Coast Guard detects even one drop of oil discharged (just enough to make a sheen on the water) they can issue a hefty fine. Maritime transport is very careful not to ever spill, and if there is an accidental spill, the ships have equipment on board to clean it up immediately. Sailors love their Lakes, and work very hard to keep them beautiful. (These laws apply to pleasure craft as well. Can all fishermen and jet skiers say the same?)

4. How many locks do the 1000-foot Great Lakes ships have available to use when passing from Lake Superior to Lake Huron?
   A. Only one! Only the Poe lock at Sault Saint Marie is big enough for large (700-foot and bigger) ships to pass through. If anything happened to that lock and it is closed, shipping of all cargo from Lake Superior would stop. This would bring many American industries to a halt. Ninety-percent of iron ore for U.S. steel passes through this lock, as well as (western) coal for power plants in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ontario.

5. Why can’t Great Lakes cargo ships travel worldwide?
   C. Great Lake vessels are too large. The Saint Lawrence Seaway was finished in 1959. At that time ocean-going ships were much smaller. Because of its size, no ships larger than 750 feet, or drafting more than about 28 feet can travel to or from the Great Lakes. This restricts Great Lakes Shipping greatly. Large ships cannot come into or leave the Great Lakes.

6. How long does an ocean-going cargo vessel usually last?
   B. 30 years. Saltwater is very corrosive and damages the hull of ocean-going ships (Salties) very quickly. Ships traveling exclusively on the fresh water of the Great Lakes however can last a hundred years!

7. What are the three main cargoes shipped on the Great Lakes (in order of tonnage)?
   C, B, & A. Iron ore, coal and limestone. Iron ore is mined in northern Minnesota and Michigan and moved by train to ports at Duluth, Two Harbors, Presque Isle (Marquette), and Escanaba, where it is loaded onto ships and transported to make steel-making
plants in Indiana, lower Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Coal comes by rail from the low-sulfur coal mines of the Powder River Basin in Wyoming and Montana and loaded onto ships in Duluth. Coal is used steel-making, as well as for coal-fired electricity-generating power plants. Limestone is used in many diverse ways: to make steel, highways, chemicals, paper, etc. Each American uses about 8,000 pounds every year!

8. A 1000-foot “laker” can hold enough iron pellets to make how many automobiles?  
   C. 15,000 automobiles!

9. What is a reasonable estimate of the dollars lost when a Great Lakes 1000-foot cargo ship must wait to dock, load or pass through a lock?  
   C. A “laker” might lose as much as $2500 per hour! Big ships are very expensive and every minute counts! Shipping and receiving ports, and locks, must work smoothly and efficiently or money is lost in costly delays.

10. How many hours does it take modern Great Lakes cargo haulers to load a 1000-foot ship with iron ore pellets?  
    A. As little as four hours! New ships can be loaded very quickly and efficiently. But it is not a job to make a mistake with. Modern ships have very thin hulls and an incorrectly directed load can tear through the ‘skin’ of a vessel very quickly. An unbalanced load will cause the ship to list, hump or sag, making the ship hard to control and possibly sink in stormy weather.

11. How many crew members does it take to load a 1000-foot “laker” with a full load?  
    A. Just one! Everything is automated, so only one person is needed to run the controls

12. What percentage of the United State’s iron ore used in steel production passes through the Poe lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan?  
    C. 90%. Steel is used to make automobiles and trucks, trains, airplanes, ships, storage tanks of all kinds, girders used to build large buildings, bridges, and tunnels; all kinds of manufacturing equipment, etc. Its hard to think of any product that we use that doesn’t require steel in some way.

13. What is “Operation Taconite” run by the U.S. Coast Guard at Sault Ste. Marie, MI?  
   The U.S. Coast Guard is responsible for breaking up the ice on the St. Mary’s River in order to keep essential traffic moving during the two months that the Soo Locks are closed from January 15-March 15 each year.

14. During which month has there been the greatest number of shipwrecks on the Great Lakes?  
    November has the greatest number. From 1800-1975, 140 shipwrecks have occurred on the Great Lakes during the month of November; 40 were on Lake Superior and 38 were on Lake Huron.

15. What is the total number of lives lost on the Great Lakes in shipping related casualties in recorded history?  
   C. 30,000 lives have been lost in shipping-related accidents on the Great Lakes.