

## Great Lakes Maritime Transportation Education Resources

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### CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

- The Day the Great Lakes Drained Away** by Charles Ferguson Barker. 2005 Grades 2-5  
What would happen if the Great Lakes drained away? This unique children's book shows the interesting landscape that would be revealed if all the water in the Great Lakes was to suddenly disappear. This book educates children and adults about the geologic features under the Great Lakes, and reminds us never to take the Great Lakes for granted.
- The Edmund Fitzgerald: Lost With All Hands** by Captain Robert Hertel. (1999) Grades 3-6  
A factual account describing the fate of the Edmund Fitzgerald, including Great Lakes geography, shipping, and theories as to why the ship sank. Also contains a simple maritime glossary.
- The Edmund Fitzgerald: The Song of the Bell** by Kathy Jo Wargin. (2003) Grades 2-5  
The giant ship leaves Superior, Wisconsin loaded with iron ore to make steel that will be used to build cars, but disaster is building as the storm clouds, known as the 'gales of November' gather... This is the story of what happened to the 29 sailors.
- Mail by the Pail** by Colin Bergel. (2000) Grades K-3  
This book examines the mail delivery system for the Great Lakes freighters. A U.S. Postal Service mailboat, operated by J.W. Westcott Company, delivers mail to the freighters while traveling.
- The Great St. Lawrence Seaway** by Gail Gibbons. (1992) Ages 4-8 yrs.  
Explains the history of this great trade route. Early French explorers and fur traders were halted by the treacherous rapids 500 miles upstream and eventually developed a system for carrying their trade canoes and cargoes around the dangerous stretches to the river beyond, leading into what became known as the Great Lakes. Ultimately, locks were built to do the lifting. The complexities of the lock system are clearly explained in a series of animated diagrams with just enough information for young readers
- The Journal of Otto Peltonen: Finnish Immigrant in Hibbing, MN, 1905** by William Durbin. (2000)  
The story of a boy's experience working in the iron ore mines and growing up in a company town. Grades 4-8.
- Life in an Anishinabe Camp** by Niki Walker. 2003. Grades 3-5  
Crabtree Publishing Company. [www.crabtreebooks.com](http://www.crabtreebooks.com) Follow the Anishnabe as they make a living in the Lake Superior land of Hiawatha...travel, children's lives, setting up camp, hunting and fishing, clothing, games, beliefs, working, and self-government.
- Paddle to the Sea** by Holling Clancy Holling. 1969. Grades 3-5  
An Indian boy carves a wooden canoe and sets it into Lake Nipigon to watch it float away. The canoe spends four years on the water, being picked up by loggers, fishermen, and families before finally making it to the ocean. Its adventures give children a sense of the wonders and diversity in the Great Lakes.

## REFERENCES

Duluth Port Authority. 2005. **Pride of the Inland Seas** . Describes the history of the port of Duluth---an excellent addition to school libraries. An additional 20 chapters that were not included in the book are available on Duluth Port Authority's website <<http://www.duluthport.com/>> . On the bottom right of the home page, "click here for companion stories that did not fit in the book." TBA

Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society. 1998. **Whitefish Point Light Station 1849**  
Whitefish Point, Michigan has been known to native tribes, explorers, missionaries and mariners for centuries. Drawn by the bountiful fishing offered by Lake Superior, the Chippewa Indians used Whitefish Point as a meeting place. Early exploration of Lake Superior led to the discovery of valuable copper and iron ore deposits in the region. Their economic potential brought commercial vessel traffic that continues today. Whitefish Point marks a turning point for all shipping traffic entering or leaving Lake Superior. The Edmund Fitzgerald went down 17 miles NW of Whitefish Point on November 10, 1975.

Lake Carriers Association. **U.S. Flag Shipping on the Great Lakes** (brochure).  
Suite 915, 614 W. Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44113-1383 Tel: 216-861-0592 [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com)  
Describes major cargoes on the Great Lakes and provides a useful map of shipping and receiving ports.

Marine Publishing Co. **Know Your Ships: Guide to Boat-Watching** [www.knowyourships.com](http://www.knowyourships.com)

Sivertson, Howard. 2001. **Schooners, Skiffs, and Steamships: Stories along Lake Superior's Water Trails**.  
This book describes the many interesting watercraft used to carry people across Lake Superior. From the bark canoes and wooden schooners that transported the fur trade and the Mackinaw boats, skiffs and bateaux that worked her shores to the first side-wheel and propeller driven steamships that hauled passengers and freight, Lake Superior's early settlers relied on water transportation as a lifeline to civilization.

Soo Lock Boat Tours. 2005. **Locks & Ships**. Vol. 4.  
Describes points of interest, history, nautical terms, and more. Teachers think this is an outstanding resource.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 1995. **Great Lakes Environmental Atlas**  
Jointly produced by Government of Canada (Toronto, ON) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Great Lakes National Program Office (Chicago, IL) Third Edition. <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/atlas/index.html>

## VIDEOS

*Aquatic Exotics* (22 min.) Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources – Exotic Species Management Program (1996)  
Tel: 612-296-2835. Describes common exotic plant and animal species threatening the Great Lakes and suggests way to control their spread. Grades 4-8.

*Barging into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (1996) (8:48 min)  
American Waterways Association, 801 North Quincy Street, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203  
Tel: 703-841-9300 <http://www.americanwaterways.com/>  
Follows the tugboats, towboats, and barges which serve the waterborne commerce of the United States, enhancing the industry's ability to provide safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible transportation.

*Intermodal Freight Transport* <http://www.marad.dot.gov/index.html>.  
Maritime Administration U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 7th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20590 Tel: 847-995-0122

To improve and strengthen the U.S. marine transportation system, including infrastructure, industry and labor, to meet the economic and security needs of the Nation. MARAD programs promote the development and maintenance of an adequate, well-balanced United States merchant marine sufficient to carry the Nation's domestic waterborne commerce and a substantial portion of its waterborne foreign commerce, and capable of service as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency. MARAD also seeks to ensure that the United States maintains adequate shipbuilding and repair services, efficient ports, effective intermodal water and land transportation systems, and reserve shipping capacity for use in time of national emergency.

*Living on the Edge: Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Shoreline* (25 minutes)

Army Corps of Engineers – Detroit District and the International Joint Commission

*Perspective of a Vital Waterway: The Great Lakes ~ St. Lawrence Seaway System* (21:38 minutes)

St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation Tel: 1-800-785-2779 [www.greatlakes-seaway.com](http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com)

Beginning with the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1954 and the official opening in 1959, this bi-national project shared by Canada and the United States, was one of the top ten public works projects of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This video captures the rich history, grandeur and diversification of this important waterway which includes channels, locks, rivers, and all five Great Lakes. Ocean-going freighters, bulk carriers, petroleum tankers, cruise ships, and pleasure craft all share in the convenience, efficiency and environmental benefits of one of the world's premiere inland waterways.

*Rise and Fall of the Great Lakes*. 1991. National Film Board of Canada (17 minutes)

Tel: 1-800-542-2164 Website: <http://www.nfb.ca/>.

A lesson in the geologic history of the Great Lakes. While the Great Lakes have had their ups and downs, nothing has been harder to take than present-day human impact. In the film, a lone canoeist lives through the changes over time—through Ice Age and flood—only to find himself trapped in a sea of 21<sup>st</sup> century scum.

*Split Rock Light: Tribute to the Age of Steel* (DVD) (22 minutes)

A story of the beacon that guided the ships along the rocky coast of Lake Superior's North Shore.

*Tragedies in the Mist* - Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary & Underwater Preserve, Alpena, MI

Thousands of vessels plied the Great Lakes for exploration, transportation, and trade. Many never reached their destinations. An area of Lake Huron known for extreme weather, treacherous waters, and dense fog has claimed over 200 ships. Today these sites are protected by the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, allowing us to explore lost chapters of America's past. More than 30,000 people have lost their lives in shipwrecks on the Great Lakes.

*A Vital Waterway – The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System* (10:28 minutes)

St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation Tel: 1-800-785-2779 [www.greatlakes-seaway.com](http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com)

This video captures the grandeur and economic importance of *The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System*--- its bustling ports, comprehensive marine transportation infrastructure, diverse intermodal transportation connections, and scenic vistas which all contribute to the making of North America's premier inland waterway.

*Where Steel Begins* (15 minutes) by American Iron Ore Association (1991)

Lake Carriers' Association, Suite 915, 614 W. Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44113-1383

Tel: 216-861-0592 Website: [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com)

Follow a hunk of iron ore, as it is mined and transformed into a taconite or a pelletized ball that is 60% iron, which then goes on to become the steel used in automobiles, rail lines, buildings, and many more of our everyday products. This video is a bit dated; may be easier to follow for younger audiences. Minnesota-based.

*Steel Starts Here* (12 minutes) by Cleveland Cliffs, Inc. Michigan Operations (2005)

P.O. Box 2000, Ishpeming, MI 49849 Tel: 906-475-3400 Website: [www.cleveland-cliffs.com](http://www.cleveland-cliffs.com)

Follow a hunk of iron ore, as it is mined and transformed into a taconite or a pelletized ball that is 60% iron, which then goes on to become the steel used in automobiles, rail lines, buildings, and many more of our everyday products. This video is better for older students. Michigan-based.

## **CURRICULUM MATERIALS**

*Exploring the Great Lakes: A Logbook of Adventures* by Patricia Westfield and Nan Soper (2003). Ages 8+  
A perfect guide for teaching about the Great Lakes. Includes information, activities, and reproducible worksheets on the Great Lakes, including geography, history, shipping and commerce, folklore, environmental issues, and a fold-out map of the lakes, along with mapping activities. A CD-ROM includes video selections of Niagara Falls, locks and canals, ships, lighthouses, and much more. Addresses the five themes of geography in a lively and relevant way, linking new knowledge to students' personal lives, helping them to understand the lakes' importance to the region and to the nation. 64 pages.

*Great Lakes in My World* by Alliance for the Great Lakes. Contact: Stephanie Smith <ssmith@greatlakes.org>, <http://www.greatlakes.org/> Tel: 312-939-0838. A collection of lessons related to the ecology and stewardship of the Great Lakes, includes 40 creature cards of Great Lakes plants and animals, both native and exotic.

*Great Lakes Shipping: Earth Systems Education Activities for Great Lakes Schools* (1997) Edited by Rosanne Fortner. Ohio Seagrant (<http://www-ohiosg.osc.edu>). Provides eleven lessons related to shipping, world connections, cultures, Great Lakes triangle and canals in Ohio.

*Lake Effects: The Lake Superior Curriculum Guide for Grades K-8* (1998)

The Lake Superior Center/Great Lakes Aquarium, 353 Harbor Dr., Duluth, MN 55802

A collection of lessons related to the history, geography, management and stewardship of the Great Lakes and Lake Superior. To request, call: (218) 740-3474 <http://www.glaquarium.org/>

*Lake Rhymes – Folk Songs of the Great Lakes Region CD & Book* by Lee and Joann Murdock. (2004)

18-song CD (71 minutes) includes a 146-page book of musical scores for all 18 songs, plus over 70 historic photos, maps and illustrations. The book explains the stories behind each song, plus ideas for using the songs to teach history, English, music and geography. Ideal for those who interested in the Great Lakes maritime history.

*Life of the Lakes: The world's greatest fishery* by Shari Dann, Michigan Sea Grant Extension and Michigan State Univ. Describes the life history of lake trout, their food web, past, present and future management.

*Paddle to the Sea Curriculum Activities* by Marcia Seager and Rosanne Fortner of Ohio State University and teacher, Timothy Taylor of Muskingum County Schools. Contains 40 classroom activities on Great Lakes geography, shipping (travel math, buoys, how locks work), lake ecosystems, and stewardship which can be taught in science, social studies, language arts, and math classes. Grades 2-6.

Prepared by:

Western U.P. Center for Science, Mathematics & Environmental Education at Michigan Technological University ([www.wupcenter.mtu.edu](http://www.wupcenter.mtu.edu)) with funding from the **Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute** ([www.glmri.org](http://www.glmri.org)) and assistance from the **Duluth Seaway Port Authority** and **Minnesota Sea Grant** in order to advance K-12 understanding of maritime shipping on the Great Lakes.