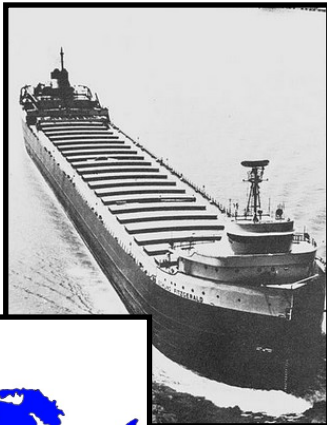
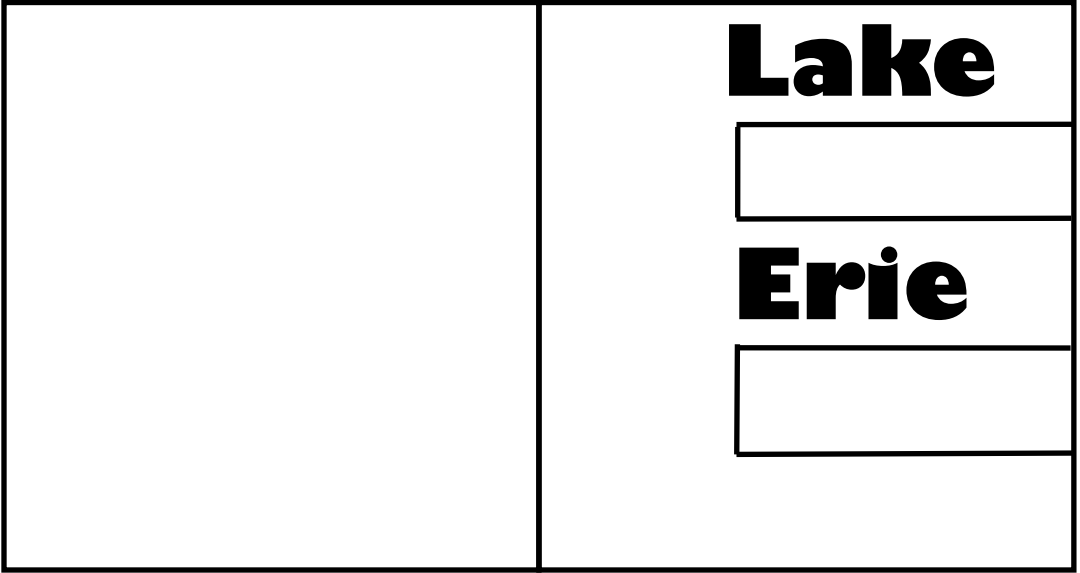
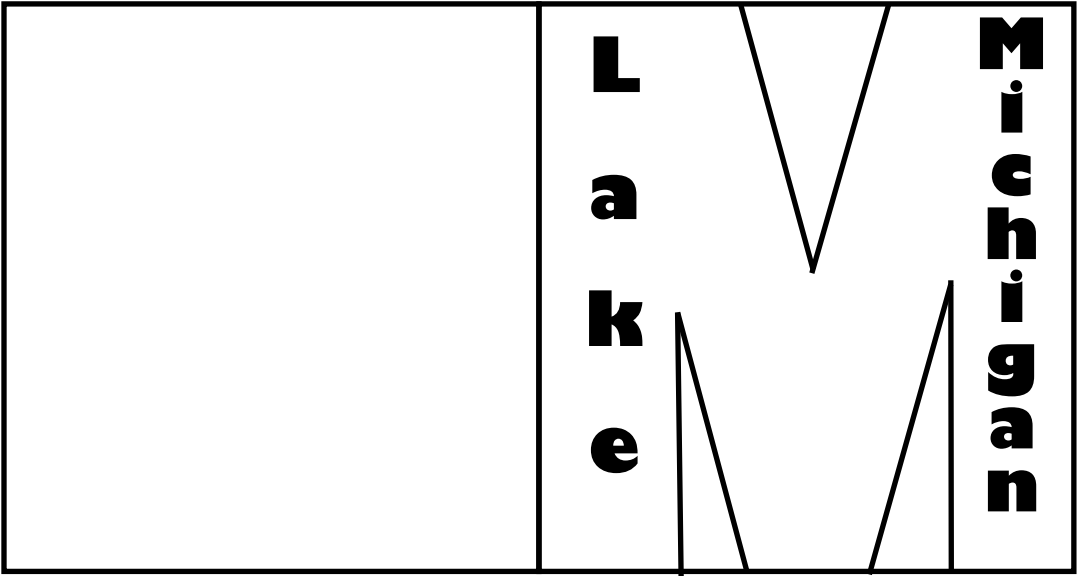
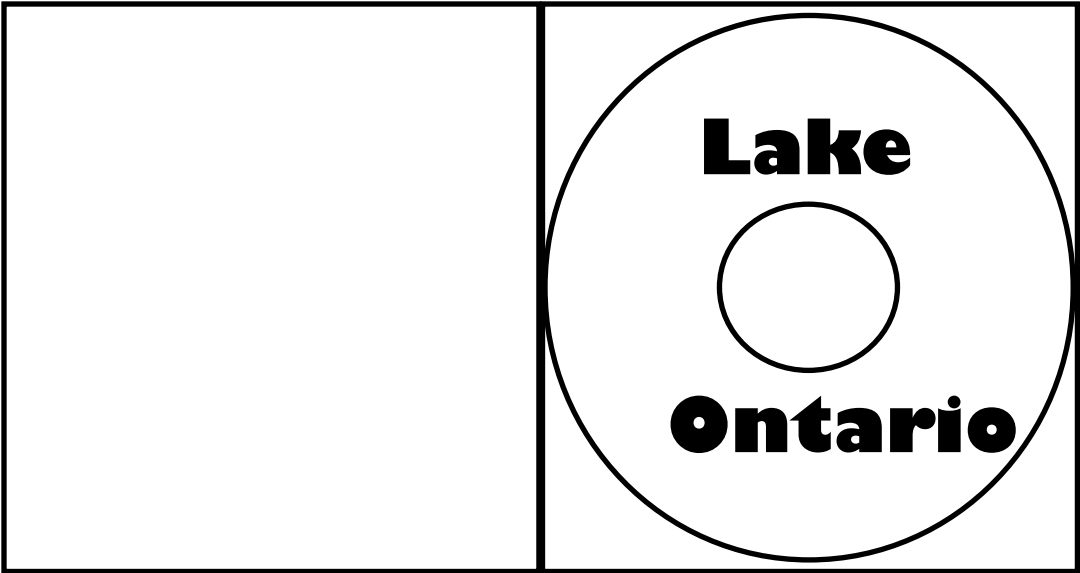




Lake Huron is the second largest of the five great lakes. Manitoulin Island is in Lake Huron and is the world's largest freshwater island. Lake Huron is connected to Lake Michigan by the Straits of Mackinac. More than 1000 shipwrecks have happened in Lake Huron, including the first European ship to sail there, Le Griffon in 1679.



Lake Superior is the largest of the Great Lakes and the largest fresh water lake in the world by surface area. It is fed by more than 200 rivers, and its main outflow is through St. Marys River into Lake Huron. All of the Great Lakes have been important for shipping goods. Lake Superior was important for shipping iron ore as well as other mined materials. The large boats that carried cargo across the Great Lakes were known as 'lake freighters.' It also has many shipwrecks and the famous *Fitzgerald* sunk in Lake Superior with no survivors, in 1975.





Lake Ontario is the most eastern of the Great Lakes. It's main source of water is the Niagara River which comes from Lake Erie. The Great Lakes have a lot of diversity in wildlife, and are home to many types of fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds and plant life. The wetlands created by Lake Ontario are a particularly special habitat.



Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that is entirely bordered by the United States. To the east and north are Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas, to the west is Wisconsin, and Illinois and Indiana are to the south. There are lots of National and State parks along the shores of Lake Michigan. It is connected to Lake Huron by the Straits of Mackinac, and you can see both Lakes from the Mackinac Bridge, pictured to the left.



Lake Erie is the shallowest of the Great Lakes, with it's average depth at 62ft and deepest part at 210ft. Lake Erie is fed from the Detroit river and it's main outflow is the Niagara River which provides hydroelectric power to both the US and Canada. The Great Lakes often partially freeze in the winter; you can see Lake Erie partially covered in ice in the picture to the left. That's a lot of ice!