

# About the Great Lakes

## Lake Superior

**Surface area:** 31,700 sq. miles  
**Maximum depth:** 1,335 feet  
**Name Origin:** From the French phrase meaning “upper lake”

## Lake Huron

**Surface area:** 23,000 sq. miles  
**Maximum depth:** 748 feet  
**Name Origin:** French explorers named it for a local Native American tribe.

## Lake Michigan

**Surface area:** 22,300 sq. miles  
**Maximum depth:** 925 feet  
**Name Origin:** From a Native American word for “great water”

## Lake Erie

**Surface area:** 9,910 sq. miles  
**Maximum depth:** 210 feet  
**Name Origin:** From a Native American word for “long tail”

## Lake Ontario

**Surface area:** 7,340 sq. miles  
**Maximum depth:** 804 feet  
**Name Origin:** From a Native American word for “beautiful lake”

## Do You Know?

Which one of the Great Lakes has the smallest area?

**Ontario**

Which one of the Great Lakes is the deepest?

**Superior**

Which one of the Great Lakes was named for the Native American Word for “long tail”?

**Erie**

## Remember the Great Lakes!

A good way to remember the names of the Great Lakes is to use the acronym “HOMES.” Write the name of each of the Great Lakes next to its starting letter.

H **Huron**

O **Ontario**

M **Michigan**

E **Erie**

S **Superior**