In this issue: The State of Michigan
The first inhabitants of Michigan were Native Americans, including the Fox, Sauk, Kickapoo, Menominee, Miami, Ojibwe, and Potawatomi tribes. The name “Michigan” comes from an Ojibwe word meaning “great water”. Native Americans first came into contact with French missionaries and fur traders in the early 17th century. Friendly relations with Native Americans were vital for the survival of early settlers in Michigan, especially through the establishment of trade networks. It is estimated that between 15,000 - 60,000 Native Americans lived in the area of Michigan when the first Europeans settled there.

The first European to explore Michigan was a Frenchman named Étienne Brûlé in 1620. He was the first European explorer to journey beyond the St. Lawrence River. The first permanent European settlement in Michigan was founded in 1668 at Sault Ste. Marie by the French missionary Jacques Marquette. Sault Ste. Marie is now known as the oldest city in the American Midwest. In 1701, the French settlement of Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit was founded by Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac. Today it is known simply as Detroit. In 1763, Michigan changed from French to British territory after France lost to Britain in the Seven Years War. During the American Revolutionary War, from 1775 to 1783, many settlers in Michigan fought on the side of the American patriots. Most of the people in Michigan were tired of living under British rule, and they decided to fight for independence. In 1783, the Americans defeated the British and Michigan became property of the newly created United States of America. Michigan then spent more than 50 years as a territory, slowly gaining a larger population as many settlers came to work as farmers, lumbermen, shipbuilders, and merchants. Michigan officially became the 26th state of the United States of America on January 26, 1837. More than a century later, on November 1, 1957 the Mackinac Bridge was completed and the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan became connected for the first time.
Every state in the United States has their own particular symbols that represent the unique nature and beauty of that state. Michigan's state symbols reflect its expansive forests and its many lakes. Each of the animals and plants that symbolize Michigan are native to the state and play an important role in its ecosystems. Michigan also has a specific state mushroom (morel), gemstone (Isle Royale Greenstone), reptile (painted turtle), soil (Kalkaska soil), and even its own particular type of fossil (mastodon). Perhaps the most unique of Michigan’s state symbols is its official state stone – the Petoskey stone – which is a type of stone that can only be found in northern Michigan near the city of Petoskey.

One of Michigan's nicknames is the “Great Lake State”. This nickname reflects the fact that Michigan is surrounded by four of the five Great Lakes: Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Superior. The geography of Michigan is quite unique; Michigan is the only state to be split into two separate peninsulas. The state of Michigan is almost entirely surrounded by the Great Lakes, and thus it is nearly an island. Michigan's unique “mitten” shape can be attributed to the movement of glaciers in the last Ice Age, which formed the massive Great Lakes thousands of years ago. Michigan shares borders with Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Ontario. Michigan has the largest freshwater coastline in the United States and the second largest coastline in the U.S. after the state of Alaska.
Ann Arbor is one of the most populous cities in the state of Michigan. It was founded in 1824 and became the home of the University of Michigan in 1837. It is best known for its many museums, libraries, and academic atmosphere. The campus of the University of Michigan is spread throughout Ann Arbor, and many of the city’s most beautiful buildings belong to the school. The University of Michigan is one of the most bustling areas of the University of Michigan, and is known for its excellent programs in humanities, engineering, medicine, and more. Student life at U of M revolves around difficult schoolwork and rowdy football games. Ann Arbor is home to Michigan Stadium, the football stadium for the University of Michigan, which is the largest stadium in America. Ann Arbor provides a diverse atmosphere and exciting cultural experiences; it is home to many small theaters and art galleries. Ann Arbor’s Main Street is its most bustling area, with many delicious restaurants and independent shops. One of the Ann Arbor’s most famous restaurants is a deli that even President Barack Obama once visited for a sandwich. In 2010, Ann Arbor was voted by Forbes as one of the most “liveable” cities in the United States. The architecture of Ann Arbor is a mix of 19th century university buildings, Victorian style homes, and even a few skyscrapers. Although it’s a small city, Ann Arbor has many interesting things to experience and see, and it is home to a world-class university.
The Great Lakes

Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario are the Great Lakes from west to east. They span 1,200 km from west to east. Together, they cover an area of 244,100 square kilometers. The lakes are shared between the United States and Canada. It would be hard to overestimate the role of this vast freshwater basin as it plays an essential part in providing transportation, recreation, power and most of all supplies drinking water.

On the world scale, the Great Lakes contain 1/5th of all fresh water on the planet. For North America this fraction rises to 3/4th.

The Great Lakes Basin is a densely populated region with about 30 million people living in the 10 states and provinces that they touch. The states and provinces include: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Quebec, and Wisconsin.

It is naturally of great interest how the lakes compare with one another. Lake Superior - as its name suggests - is the largest of the lakes with the length of 563 km and breadth of 257 km. Its shoreline length is 4,393 km including islands. Just imagine how long it would take to drive such a distance.

The second largest is Lake Huron, with length of 332 km, breadth 295 km and shoreline length 6,164 km.

Lake Michigan comes as the third largest of the Great Lakes with the length of 494 km, breadth, 190 km and shoreline length 2,639 km.

Next in size is Lake Erie, whose length is 388 km, breadth, 92 km and shoreline length, 1,402 km.

The smallest of the five is Lake Ontario with length of 311km, breadth, 85 km and shoreline length 1,146 km.

In the comparison of the lakes it is interesting to see how deep each lake is. It turns out that here the record is held again by Lake Superior. The comparison of average and maximum depth is listed below. The numbers are provided by the NOAA - Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/education/ourlakes/lakes.html)

Superior: 149 m average, 406 m maximum, Michigan: 85 m average, 281 m maximum, Huron: 59 m average, 229 m maximum, Erie: 19 m average, 64 m maximum, Ontario: 86 m average, 244 m maximum.

While the Great Lakes don’t all touch one another, they are all part of the same drainage system in the Great Lakes Basin. The ones that are directly connected through the Straits of Mackinac are Lakes Michigan and Huron. Thus they can also be considered as one lake - Lake Michigan–Huron. The Great Lakes are connected to the Atlantic Ocean through the St. Lawrence Seaway, a system of locks, canals, and channels in Canada and the United States, which makes it possible for oceangoing vessels to travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes.
Lakes’ Names and Lighthouses

The Great Lakes, are collectively referred to as the "inland seas" or the "third coast of the U.S. and Canada." But it is also interesting to learn about the origin of their indvidual names. Lake Erie was named after the Erie tribe, a shortened form of the Iroquoian word erielhonan "long tail". Huron was the name given to the lake after the inhabitants of the area, the Wyandot (or “Hurons”). Lake Michigan comes from the Ojibwa word mishi-gami meaning “great water” or “large lake”. Lake Ontario was taken from the Wyandot (Huron) word ontari’io, which means “lake of shining waters”. Finally, Lake Superior is the English translation of the French term lac supérieur “upper lake”, referring to its position north of Lake Huron.

The Great Lakes have never been easy to navigate. The fall months, October through December, have frequent storms, with the waves reaching a height of ten meters at times.

That is why the role of lighthouses in the old days was very important. The good purpose lighthouses served by assisting ships in bad weather, guiding them safely to ports, and warning them against shallow waters and treacherous rocks has warmed people’s hearts to them for centuries. Lighthouse keepers were always aware of the responsibility they held for the lives of sailors. The keepers, both men and women, were also in a sense lifeguards who rescued castaways and others from drowning. Many lighthouse keepers saved dozens and even hundreds of lives.

The 20th century, with the development in technology changed the job of the lighthouse keeper tremendously. Technology produced less of a need for lighthouse keepers, and in 1999 the last manned light station (Boston Harbor Light) was automated.

The keepers’ houses and lighthouse towers started to crumble. Neglected, exposed to high winds, waves, and humidity, they soon lost their luster, and years later plans were made to take them down.

But by that time, local people did not want to let them go. They wanted them restored and brought back to their former beauty. Groups of preservationists conducted crusades to save the old lighthouses. Such efforts restored the Charlotte-Genesee Light in Rochester, New York, the Crisp Point Light in Northwest of Paradise, Michigan, the Fire Island Light in New York, and the Holland Harbor Light in Holland, Michigan. The lenses from the deactivated lighthouses were often entrusted to maritime museums.
ACTIVITY: GRAMMAR:

Read the text below and supply any missing articles:

... Great Lakes Shipwreck Research Foundation researches ... shipwrecks and explores ... still relatively unexplored lakebeds in search of ... schooners, ... steamers, and other sunken ships embedded in ... depths of ... Great Lakes. When explorers come across these sunken ships they usually leave them as they find them. In ... case of ... Edmund Fitzgerald, however, ... bell of ... unfortunate ship was lifted out of ... water and placed in ... Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum in Whitefish Point, Michigan. ... copy of t ... bell was cast and taken down to ... wreck to replace ... original.

ACTIVITY: SPEAKING:

Look at the map of the USA and show all the states that border with the Great Lakes. Then present what you remember about the State of Michigan to your partner.

ACTIVITY: SPEAKING:

What was it like to be a sailor and a discoverer in the times when there were many white patches on the map of the world? Talk to your partner of pros and cons of this job.

Here are some words connected with the build of a ship. Study the words and make sure you know which part of the ship they refer to:

- bow
- stern
- rudder
- hull
- keel
- foremast
- topsail
- main deck
- captain’s cabin

ACTIVITY PAGE

MARCH-APRIL 2020

TRIVIA QUESTION

Which of the five Great Lakes is the deepest?

Send the answer (with your home address) to:
KrakowAIRC@state.gov

The 3rd, the 7th and the 11th sender of the correct answer will be awarded with a book prize.

Deadline April 30, 2020

January-February

Answer:
Pearl Buck and Toni Morrison

The winners are:
Zofia from Skarzysko-Kamienna and M. from Gomulin

CONGRATULATIONS!!!
The prizes will be sent to you by mail.

Zoom is online at
www.usinfo.pl/zoom/

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The Little Sable Point Lighthouse in Silver Lake State Park near Mears, Michigan, Photo AP Images