Partnering to Build Environmental Literacy: Ohio's Successes in Lake Erie Education and Outreach

Why Partner?

- Develop a unified Lake Erie Education and Outreach plan linked to the 20-year NOAA Education Plan goals of environmental literacy & developing a future workforce.
- Maximize funding & personnel
- Share partners' information
- Speak with one voice to enhance public repoire.
- We share a mutual goal...





Helping people imprøve Lake Erie.

Partnership Vision:

Lake Erie-literate citizens making informed decisions and taking personal actions that create a healthier lake and watershed.

Need Identified:

 A unified method to Lake Erie that is easy to understand, accurate and can bridge the gap between stakeholders (researchers, planners, teachers, coastal residents,

visitors, owners, etc.). STEP

We Developed:

in Ocean Literacy to a

relate to and put their

hands on.

(see right panel)

place our residents could

 Lake Erie Legacy Project: A series of 8 videos Lake Erie Literacy and companion K12 student activities and teacher **Essential Principles and** Fundamental Concepts to resources. bring the ideas expressed Programs for students/ Presentations for adults.

Successes:

- National Award winning articles for Kidsville News.
- Trainings for teachers & resource professionals. Researchers to explain area of study and to get
- more funding. Can be used by ALL people who are trying to teach about Lake Erie regardless of their location.



Lake Erie Literacy Principles

fresh water with many features.

- 2. Natural forces formed and continue to shape Lake Erie and its watershed.
- 3. Lake Erie influences local and regional weather
- 4. Water makes Earth habitable: fresh water sustains life on land.
- 6. Lake Erie and humans in its watersheds are inextricably interconnected.
- 7. Much remains to be learned about Lake Erie.
- 8. Lake Erie is socially, economically and environmentally significant to the region and nation.

Great Lakes Literacy Principles 1. The Great Lakes, bodies of fresh water with many

5. The Great Lakes support a broad diversity of life

6. The Great Lakes and humans in their watersheds

sustains life on land.

are inextricably interconnected.

the nation, and the planet.

7. Much remains to be learned about the

8. The Great Lakes are socially, economically,

and environmentally significant to the region,

- features, are connected to each other and to the world ocean.
- 2. The ocean and life in the ocean shape the 2. Natural forces formed the Great Lakes: features of the Earth. the lakes continue to shape the features of their watershed.
- 3. The Great Lakes influence local and regional 3. The ocean is a major influence on weather weather and climate.
- 4. The ocean makes Earth habitable. 4. Water makes Earth habitable; fresh water
 - 5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life

Ocean Literacy Principles

1. The Earth has one big ocean with many features.

- 6. The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.
- 7. The ocean is largely unexplored.

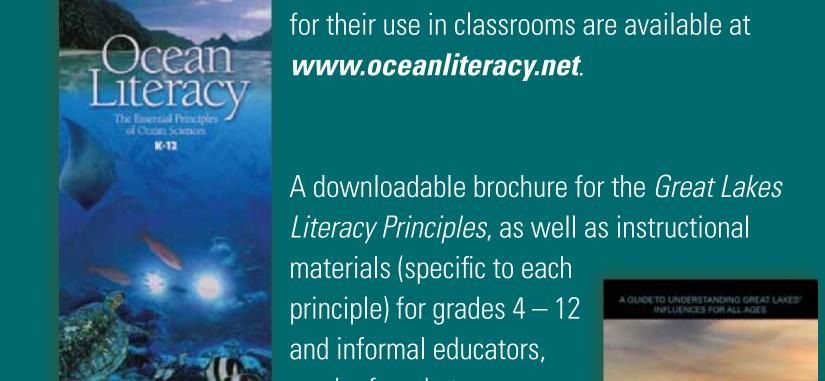
A LAKE ERIE LITERATE PERSON:

- Understands the characteristics, functioning and value of Lake Erie;
- Communicates accurately about Lake Erie's influence on systems and people in and beyond its watershed; and
- Makes informed and responsible decisions regarding Lake Erie and the resources of its watershed.

Literacy Origins

The Lake Erie Literacy effort had its origins in Ocean Literacy, a most important science principles and interconnected concepts that all science centers, and other place-based education sites, are the primary citizens should know. In an effort to convey the grandeur and importance target audience for the Lake Erie Principles. All Ocean, Great Lakes of our freshwater resource to others, Lake Erie Partnership for Education, and Lake Erie Literacy Principles and Fundamental Concepts have been Research and Outreach* members identified a need for a place-based aligned with the National Science Education Standards. environmental literacy framework for Lake Erie. A project team initiated the development of this framework by adapting Ocean Literacy: The Essential Principles and Fundamental Concepts to Lake Erie.

The Lake Erie Literacy Principles and Concepts were first presented at an international conference in 2009. The Lake Erie Literacy Principles were then used to develop the *Great Lakes Literacy Essential Principles* and Fundamental Concepts, which were finalized in the summer 2010 After further revisions based on feedback from scientists, researchers and educators, the Lake Erie Literacy Principles and Concepts were finalized in spring 2011 and are presented here.



loadable brochures for the *Ocean Literacy*

ssential Principles and a Scope and Sequence

The Lake Erie Literacy Principles provide a unified, strategic message

for Lake Erie education and outreach efforts throughout the watershed.

Using the Principles

and Outreach* original members include the

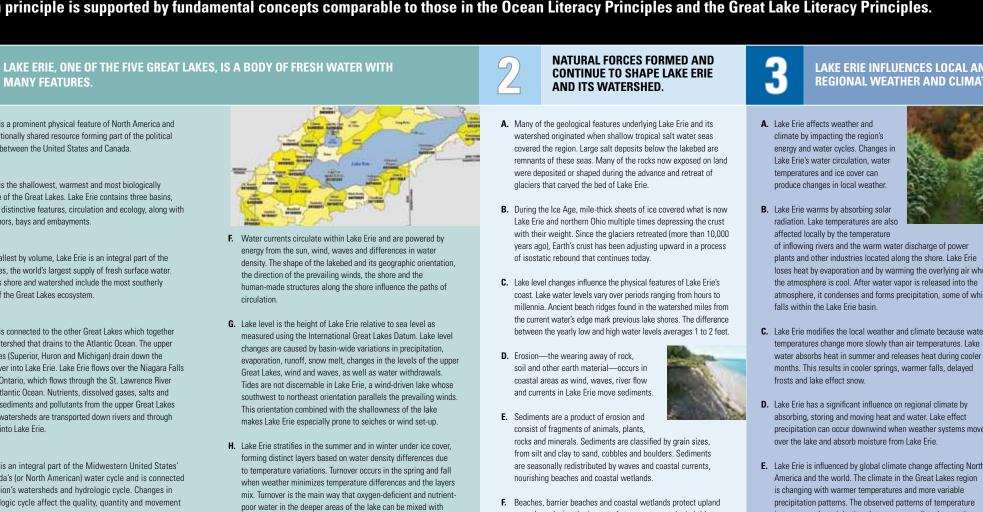


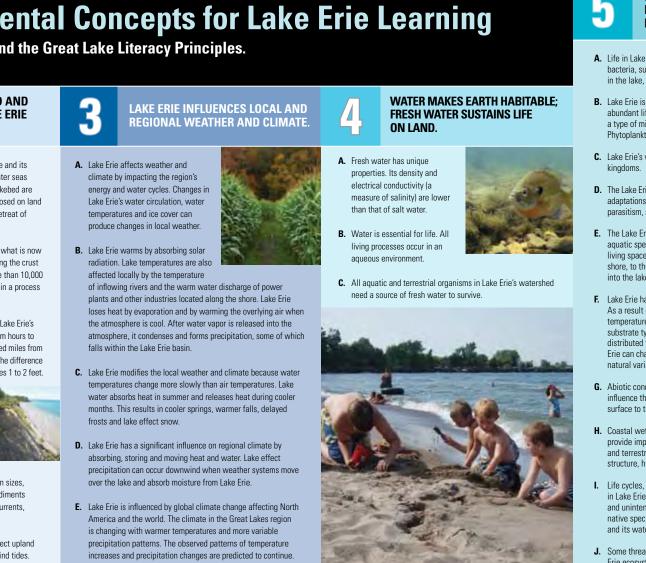
Learn More: ohiodnr.com/LakeErieLiteracy

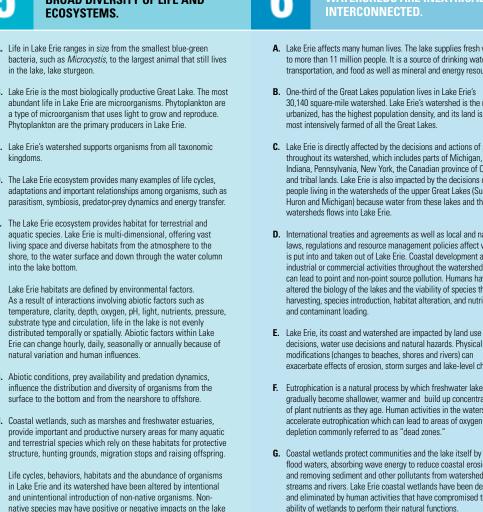
Looking Ahead:

- Formal and informal educator trainings by OWC NERR & Ohio Coastal Training Program funded through variety of federal, state and local foundations.
- Exploring expanding the Lake Erie Legacy videos into longer educational movies.
- Integration into learning modules for formal and informal education.

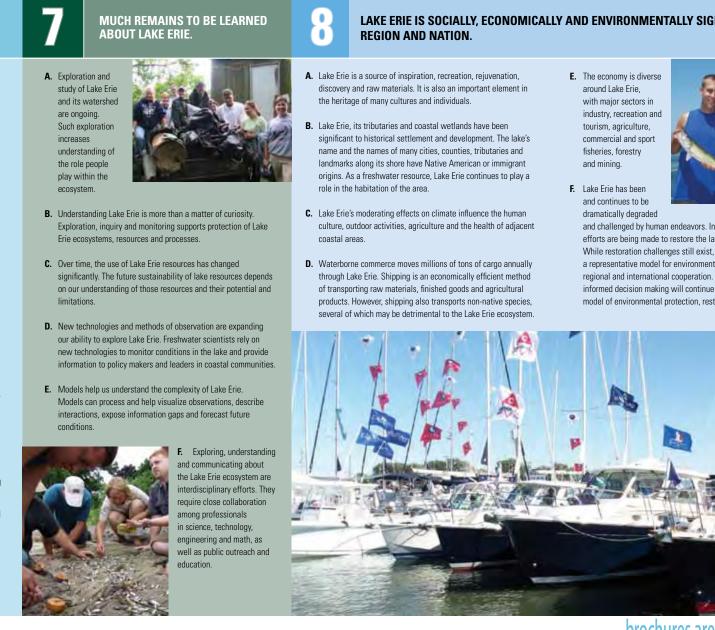












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