

One Lake, Two Nations

How neighboring countries share responsibility for clean water

5.5b "Countries in the Western Hemisphere face a variety of concerns and issues specific to the region."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each detail that shows why Great Lakes pollution affects both countries. Circle each action people or governments can take to address the shared concern.

Protecting Shared Water

- ① The Great Lakes lie between the United States and Canada. These lakes hold a large share of the world's fresh surface water and supply drinking water to millions of people. Because water moves across the border, pollution in one place can affect communities in both countries. Keeping the lakes clean is a shared regional concern, not a problem that stops at one national boundary.
- ② One concern is harmful algae blooms, which can grow in parts of the Great Lakes, including Lake Erie. Heavy rain can wash fertilizer or sewage into streams. Phosphorus in that runoff can reach a lake and feed algae. Some blooms make water unsafe for people, pets, and wildlife and make drinking water harder and costlier to treat.
- ③ Canada and the United States work together through the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Their governments and the International Joint Commission study water conditions and report on progress. Communities can upgrade wastewater systems, and farmers can use practices that keep more fertilizer out of streams. These actions cannot prevent every bloom, but they can reduce pollution and protect water shared by both countries.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why is Great Lakes pollution a shared concern for Canada and the United States?

2 Explain how heavy rain can lead to an algae bloom in a lake.

3 Give two ways harmful algae blooms can affect people or communities.

4 What are two actions named in the passage that can reduce Great Lakes pollution?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences explaining why clean Great Lakes water is a shared concern. Include one cause of pollution, one effect of algae blooms, and one action Canada and the United States can take together.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each detail that shows why Great Lakes pollution affects both countries. Circle each action people or governments can take to address the shared concern. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is Great Lakes pollution a shared concern for Canada and the United States?	Water and pollution can move across the border and affect communities in both countries.
2	Explain how heavy rain can lead to an algae bloom in a lake.	Heavy rain can wash fertilizer or sewage into streams. Phosphorus in the runoff can reach a lake and feed algae.
3	Give two ways harmful algae blooms can affect people or communities.	They can make water unsafe for people, pets, and wildlife, and they can make drinking water harder and more costly to treat.
4	What are two actions named in the passage that can reduce Great Lakes pollution?	Communities can upgrade wastewater systems, and farmers can use practices that keep more fertilizer out of streams.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Heavy rain can carry phosphorus from fertilizer or sewage into streams that reach Lake Erie. The extra phosphorus can feed algae blooms, making water unsafe and harder to treat. Canada and the United States can work together by improving wastewater systems and helping farmers keep fertilizer out of streams.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect water crossing a border with effects in both countries. For the open response, look for an accurate cause, effect, and cooperative action from the passage.