

Water, Water Everywhere



Source: United States Census Bureau via Wikimedia Commons

Today kicks off “March is Reading Month,” and a school in northern Michigan is taking it a step further by reading as much as they can about Michigan. Turns out this is yet another state with **plenty of wacky facts**. It’s a mitten-shaped state that wraps around four of the Great Lakes – hence its name, which comes from the Native American “Michi-Gama” meaning “large lake.” There’s no spot in Michigan where you’re more than 85 miles from a Great Lake. In fact, there’s so much water in Michigan -11,000 lakes in total and 36,000 miles of streams – that you’re never more than 6 miles from any

form of water. So it’s no surprise that Michigan has more registered boats than any other state, and more lighthouses.

Wee ones: Michigan touches 4 of the 5 Great Lakes. How many Great Lakes don’t touch Michigan?

Little kids: Michigan was the 26th state to join the Union. What number was Florida, which joined next? *Bonus:* If you’re standing 6 miles from the nearest stream and 88 miles from a Great Lake, how much closer are you to the stream than the Great Lake?

Big kids: 40 of Michigan’s 83 counties touch a Great Lake. How many don’t?

Bonus: Michigan has about 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, and a population of about 9 million (9,000,000) people. If everyone got an equal amount of Great Lake shoreline, how much would each person get?