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**Great Lakes Conversation Starters**

Time: 5-10 minutes

Materials: sheet with following questions, or blank paper for participants to respond to questions read aloud.

There are no right or wrong answers to this quiz. By answering these questions, participants can clarify their values towards the lakes and nature and demonstrate that to decide about an issue or value also requires one to make a choice.

1. Where would you rather be on a Saturday afternoon?
2. At a Great Lake or inland lake beach
3. Hiking in the woods
4. In a shopping mall
5. At home, playing video games or watching television.
6. Where would you rather live?
7. On a farm
8. In the suburbs
9. In a city
10. In the woods
11. On the shore of a lake
12. In the mountains
13. What is the most serious problem facing society today?
14. Education
15. Climate Change
16. Personal freedoms
17. What do you feel are the most urgent issues facing the Great Lakes today?
18. Climate change
19. Exotic species
20. Pollution, including microplastics
21. Lack of government action to restore and protect the lakes
22. Lack of citizen awareness of the lakes’ value to their everyday lives
23. If you could live by a Great Lake, which one would you choose?
24. Lake Superior
25. Lake Michigan
26. Lake Huron
27. Lake Erie
28. Lake Ontario
29. If you were your state’s governor or your province’s premier, what would be your top priority for the Great Lakes?
30. Prevent any diversions of water to other regions on the continent
31. Upgrade wastewater treatment systems to prevent contaminants and microplastics from entering the lakes
32. Expand funding and staffing to park systems and ensure all beaches are clean and open for use
33. Expand funding to protect the lakes from the effects of climate change
34. Propose new mandates to expand/enhance curricula and community education about the lakes
35. What do you wish you knew more about the Great Lakes?
36. Their formation and geologic history
37. What government agencies and local organizations work to protect the lakes
38. Where the parks, beaches and trails are located near the lake closest to me
39. What are the most pressing problems facing the lakes
40. All the benefits the lakes provide to us
41. How to help to protect the lakes
42. Where is your favorite place in nature?
43. Family cottage
44. Great Lake – which one? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
45. Inland lake
46. Hiking trail
47. Garden
48. Woods