

CPYRGHT

MICHIGAN, LAKE, one of the Great Lakes, lying wholly within the boundaries of the United States. It is the third of the Great Lakes in size (22,400 sq. mi.) being exceeded by Superior and Huron. It is 307 miles long measured from 87° 30' N to 85° 45' N, and the steamer distance from Chicago to the Straits of Mackinac is 321 miles; its greatest width, measured at 45° 25' N is 118 miles; its mean elevation is 579.7 feet above sea level, and it is 22.4 feet below the level of Lake Superior; its maximum recorded depth is 923 feet. Green Bay, an arm of the lake partly separated from the western shore by two peninsulas is 118 miles long and 23 miles wide. Except at the northern end the shores of the lake are low and sandy; there are few natural harbors of refuge from the storms which sweep over its surface; the long north-south axis of the lake aggravates northern and southern winds.

The fisheries of Lake Michigan are of great importance and supply an extensive market in the Middle West. Iron ore, coal, limestone, lumber, pulp wood, and grain are the chief products shipped by lake freighters. Ports along the southern end of the lake are open the year round but those in the north are closed by ice for about four months. Winter navigation consists of regular car-ferry lines between Wisconsin and Michigan ports. Chicago is the largest lake port and others along the western shore are Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, and Manistique, all protected by breakwaters. Port Washington, Waukegan, Indiana Harbor, and Gary are artificial ports. On the eastern shore are Ludington, Grand Haven, and Muskegon. The Drainage Canal at Chicago carries a large volume of water from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi drainage basin. Lake Michigan was discovered and explored by JEAN NICOLET in 1634. F. C. W. ; E. K. A.

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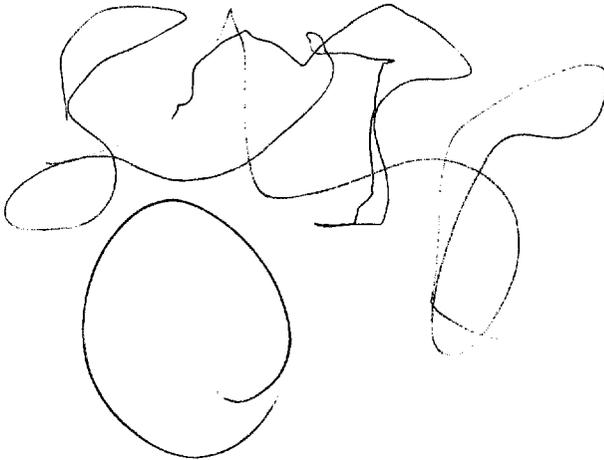
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