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Cover Photo: Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada, September 2007.
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SummerReads Set D are on the GREEN step
on TextProject's Staircase of Automaticity

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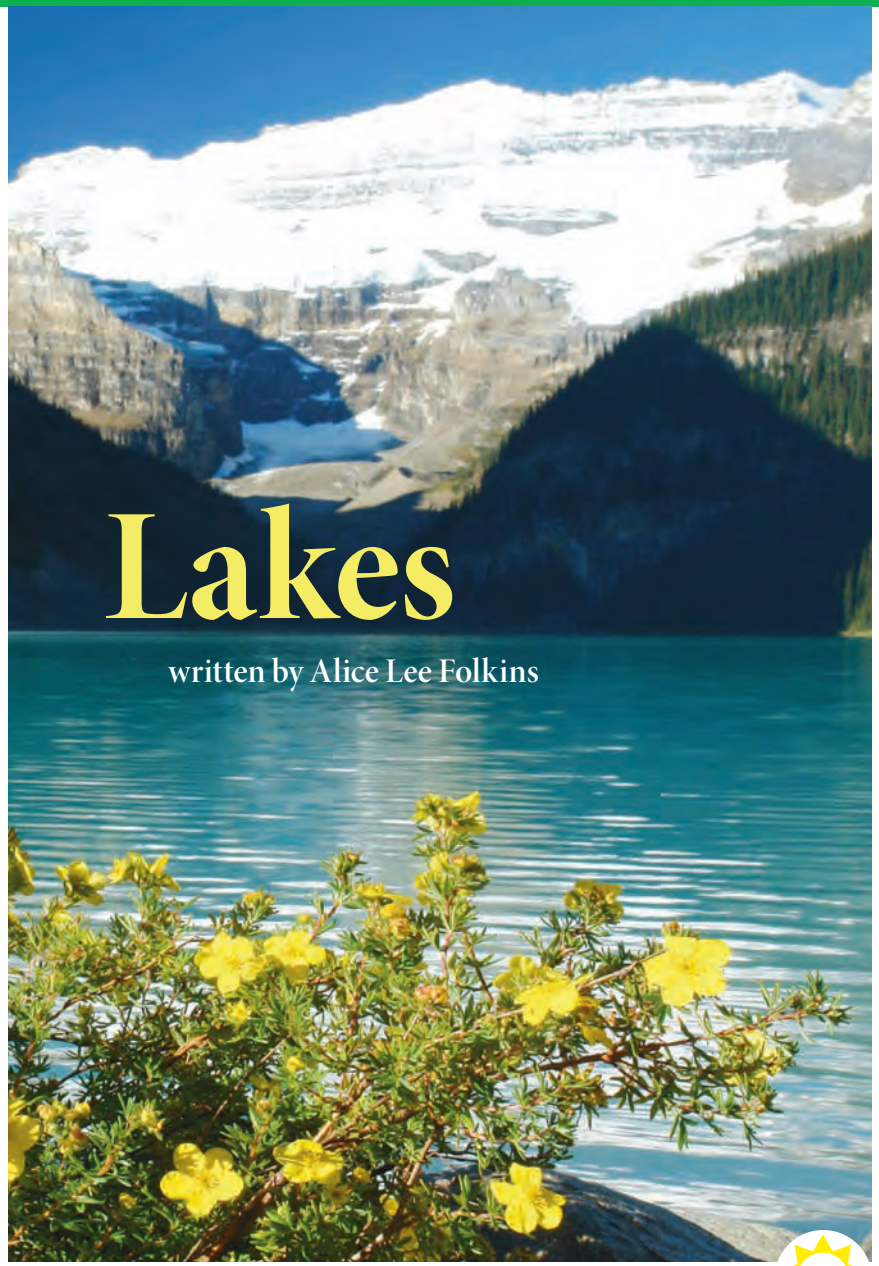
Green Step
Set D

Places to Visit in Summer



Lakes

written by Alice Lee Folkins

SummerReads™

Lakes

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SummerReads™

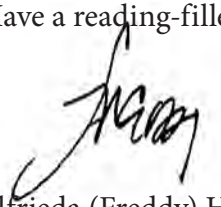
Dear Student,

I am a teacher who has studied how children learn to read well. What I have learned has been used to write SummerReads and programs like QuickReads® and Ready Readers.

The best way to be ready for the new school year is to read every day of the summer. You can choose to read a chapter or a book from SummerReads. But be sure to read it at least three times on the same day. Here's how to use SummerReads:

1. Start by reading it yourself. Mark the words that you don't know.
2. Next, ask someone to read with you. Get that person to help you with any words you don't know. You can even go to the computer to www.textproject.org and hear a recording of the books.
3. Last, you're going to read by yourself to answer the questions at the end of the book. You can go to the computer to find the answers.

Have a reading-filled summer!



Elfrieda (Freddy) Hiebert, Ph.D.
Inventor of the TExT model

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Lakes

Photo: View from Palisade Head in Minnesota's Tettegouche State Park on the North Shore of Lake Superior, August 2008.
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SummerReads™

Introduction

Lakes

Water is a very big part of life on Earth. About 326 million trillion gallons of water cover Earth. A single gallon has 16 cups in it. That means that 326 million trillion gallons is a lot of water! Even your body is more water than anything else. When you are eight or nine years old, you have about 4 gallons or 64 cups of water in your body.

In the summer, we especially need water to keep our bodies from getting too hot. People often visit places like lakes or oceans in the summer to cool off. If you can't travel to a lake or ocean, you might visit a swimming pool. Or if you can't do that, you can take an imaginary trip to a lake in this book. Stay cool!

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Thousands of Lakes

Lakes are not as big as oceans but there are many more lakes than oceans on Earth. Lakes are bodies of water that are inland. Ponds that are also inland bodies of water but lakes are usually bigger and deeper.

There are several million lakes on Earth. That means that there is probably at least one lake close to where you live. Some lakes are small and others are large. The lake with the largest surface area is Lake Superior. Part of Lake Superior is in the United States. Part of it is in Canada.

Canada has the most lakes of any country on Earth. Minnesota in the United States claims to be the land of 10,000 lakes. Manitoba lies just north of Minnesota in Canada. Manitoba claims to have 100,000 lakes. That's ten times the number of lakes in Minnesota!

Claims about numbers of lakes can be hard to prove. Because many lakes are very small, people sometimes can't agree on whether they are lakes or ponds. There are some large lakes among the 10,000 lakes in Minnesota and the 100,000 lakes in Manitoba. But none are nearly as large as Lake Superior.

Perhaps you will visit a lake this summer to swim, fish, or cool off. Even if you can't visit a lake this summer, you can visit two of the world's most interesting lakes through reading. Read on for your imaginary visits to the Panama Canal and the Great Salt Lake.

Photo: Aerial view of Douglas Lake, Michigan with Mullett Lake and Burt Lake in the distance, July 2003.
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Lakes

The Panama Canal

There is a place in the country of Panama where the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans are only 51 miles apart. From the time that Europeans came to the Americas, they wanted to get ships from one ocean to the other without traveling around South America. The first plan to build a canal for ships to sail between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans failed.

The next plan worked and the Panama Canal was opened in 1914. This is how a ship moves from one ocean to the other through the Panama Canal. The ship goes into a chamber. Since the gates close or lock after the ship goes in, the chambers in a canal are called locks. The first lock is at the level of the sea. When the gate has closed behind the ship, huge amounts of water pour into the chamber. As the water level gets higher, the ship floats higher too.

When the ship has risen to 85 feet above sea level, a gate opens. The ship moves along a long waterway that is 85 feet above sea level. When the ship nears the end of the waterway, it goes into another chamber. This time, water is drained from the lock. As water drains, the ship moves lower. When the ship is at sea level, the gate opens. The ship is now on the other ocean.

The Panama Canal would not work without the waterway that is 85 feet above sea level. This waterway is a very large lake that was made by closing off rivers and streams.

Photo: Gatun Locks connecting the Atlantic Ocean to Gatun Lake, Panama Canal, January 2000.
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Lakes

The Great Salt Lake

The water from most lakes tastes like the water from a tap in your house. This kind of water is called freshwater. Almost all lakes are filled with freshwater. However, the water in the Great Salt Lake of Utah is saltwater, not freshwater. In fact, it is up to nine times saltier than the saltwater in the oceans. If you tried to drink this water, you would want to spit it as fast as you could.

The water that flows into lakes from rivers first falls to earth as rain or snow. Rainwater or snow tastes fresh, not salty. The water that runs into the Great Salt Lake, like all lakes, is fresh. What happens to the water once it runs into the Great Salt Lake to make it so salty?

As the water runs over the ground, it touches rocks and soil. Some parts of the rocks and soil break up or dissolve in water. As this water flows into the Great Salt Lake, it brings in dissolved materials, such as salt. Unlike most lakes, the Great Salt Lake does not have streams and rivers that flow out of it. The dissolved material, including salt, cannot flow out of the lake. Water can only leave the Great Salt Lake through evaporation. Evaporation is when water turns into a gas in the air. Evaporation only takes pure water out of the lake. The salt does not evaporate. It stays in the lake. That's why there is a very salty lake in Utah, far from any ocean.

Photo: View of the Great Salt Lake, Utah, June 2008.
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Lakes

Rate your thinking and reading

✔ Put a check each time you read one of the chapters of the book.

★ Give yourself a star for Sharing if you told someone about something you learned from reading the chapter.

✚ Give yourself a + if you can tell that your reading is getting smoother.

	1st Read	2nd Read	3rd Read	Sharing	Smoother
Introduction					
Thousands of Lakes					
The Panama Canal					
The Great Salt Lake					

Comprehension questions

Thousands of Lakes

1. True or false? There are more oceans than lakes.
☐ true ☐ false

2. Lakes differ from oceans because _____.
☐ lakes are smaller than oceans
☐ you can't swim in the oceans
☐ lakes are inland, whereas oceans surround land

The Panama Canal

3. True or false? The Panama Canal connects the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.
☐ true ☐ false

4. How do ships get through the Panama Canal?
☐ Ships sail through the canal at sea level
☐ Ships are raised and lowered in a set of locks
☐ Ships sail on an inland lake for part of the 51-mile canal
☐ All of the above

The Great Salt Lake

5. Indicate the type of water in the example below:

Great Salt Lake · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ☐ saltwater ☐ freshwater
Atlantic Ocean · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ☐ saltwater ☐ freshwater
Water from the tap · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ☐ saltwater ☐ freshwater
Rain or snow · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ☐ saltwater ☐ freshwater

6. How did the Great Salt Lake get so salty?
☐ People put salt from the ocean into the lake
☐ It is part of the Atlantic Ocean
☐ The sun dries up the water in the lake, leaving behind the salt
☐ People store salt in the Great Salt Lake so that it can be used later

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