

## The Story of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Teacher Preparation Handout

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**Materials:**

- One clear container (4 to 5 litre capacity) filled half-way with clear water.
- One film canister or small container (not clear) per student.
- Ingredients (ensure they are safe for children) and label with land use or character for each canister:

Land use/character	Ingredients
Fishing	Fishing line or dental floss
Pulp and paper mills	Cloudy water and paper
Smelter (acid rain)	Vinegar
Mine	Muddy water
De-icing agent	Salt
Hazardous waste	Water and food colouring (red)
Washing the family car	Water and dishwashing liquid
Mysterious liquid	Water and food colouring (green)
Oil spill	Oil
Sewage	Lemon juice and floaties (litter)
Power plant	Vinegar
Fertilizers	Baking soda
Commuters	Vinegar
Tourists	Litter
Picnics	Litter
Dog	Mushed up chocolate
Demolishers	Vinegar
Pesticides	Baking soda

**Activity instructions:**

1. Prepare one labelled canister per student. There are 18 possible land uses/characters, therefore you will need to double up on some land uses/characters (e.g. Tourist) to ensure that every student has a role.
2. Place large clear container, half filled with water, where all the students can see it.
3. Distribute a canister to each student. Ensure that the canisters are not opened.
4. Explain to the students that they are each a character in “The Story of the Great Lakes and St Lawrence River” and that when their character is mentioned, to empty the contents of their canister into the large container.