



ECHO'S NEWTON TAKES A SPIN!

Lake Champlain to  
the World's Lakes!

# social studies



Map Source: Lehner, B. & P. Doll (2003), Birkett, C.M. & J.M. Mason (1986),  
Commonwealth of Australia-Geoscience Australia (1990), ESRI (2003).

Major World Lakes

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My Name

## Compare and Contrast: Lake Chad vs. Lake Champlain

Compare and contrast your knowledge of Lake Champlain and Lake Chad by reading the paragraphs and answering the questions below. Use the on-line atlas at [www.lcbp.org](http://www.lcbp.org) to learn more about Lake Champlain.

*Lake Chad is Africa's fourth largest lake by surface area. Four different countries share the Lake. For thousands of years, Lake Chad has been a center of trade and cultural exchange between people living north of the Sahara desert and people further south. The Lake Chad watershed is home to some of the world's poorest people. Many earn less each year than what \$350 could buy in the United States.*

*Fishing and farming are the basis of the Lake Chad area economy. More than 22 million people live in the region—nearly 40 times more than live in the Lake Champlain watershed! One **tributary** provides 95% of Lake Chad's water. Lake Chad is an important source for food, but the Lake is shrinking at an alarming rate. A shallow lake, it is now only about 20 feet (6 m) deep. Its surface area has also been reduced by droughts and the demand for water to irrigate farm land. Although Lake Chad experiences lots of **evaporation**, the water is not salty.*



Countries around Lake Chad. Find Lake Chad on the map on the cover.

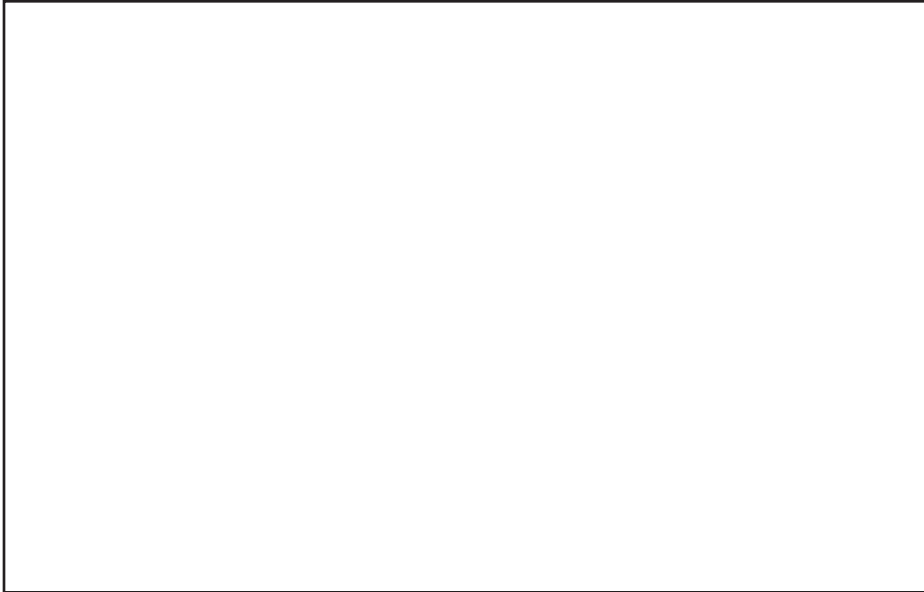
1. Are there any similarities between the Lake Champlain and Lake Chad **watersheds**? What are some of the differences?

2. Most of the Lake Chad watershed is desert. What steps can residents along Chad's major tributary take to help keep Lake Chad's water clean?

3. What are some things that people who live in the Lake Chad and Lake Champlain watersheds have in common? (Think about languages, families, climate, jobs, and why people might want to protect their lakes.) Give two examples.

# A Picture Says A Thousand Words!

1. Which world lake would you like to visit? What country (countries) is it in? Create a postcard of the lake and its watershed. Make it catchy so that others will want to visit too—your lake's economy may depend upon tourists! Try featuring local people, fish and wildlife, or perhaps other natural features like wetlands or deserts.



*Fishing for postcard ideas?*  
Visit [www.worldlakes.org](http://www.worldlakes.org) to look up lakes.

## World Photo Match-Up



Draw a line from the photos to match the text.

Lake Tana, in Ethiopia, has one of the world's highest waterfalls, the Blue Nile Falls. In 2003, an IMAX crew went to film the falls, only to find out that a hydroelectric dam now controls the amount of water flowing over the falls!

The Batak people are **indigenous** to the area near Lake Toba in Indonesia. Batak dancers perform in traditional clothing for visitors.

Every lake uses its resources differently, depending on the population and politics of the region. This photo of Lake Baikal in Russia shows an activity that is common around the world.

Lake Ohrid, which is shared by Albania and Macedonia, has many beautiful historic buildings, some of which are more than 500 years old.

Local people near Lake Biwa in Japan harvest bamboo. Is there anything in your home made of bamboo?



# Continents and Cultures

Fill-in the blanks by using an atlas and the map on the cover.

1. The Great Bear and Great Slave Lakes are located on the continent of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Look at the location of Lake Ohrid, Lake Issyk-kul and Lake Khanka. What do they have in common? They are located on the 41<sup>st</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.
3. One language spoken at Lake Titicaca is likely \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The volcanic mountains around Lake \_\_\_\_\_ protected local residents from the tsunami that seriously damaged other parts of Indonesia in 2005.
5. Lake \_\_\_\_\_, located on the continent of Australia, is 20-50 million years old, possibly the oldest of the world's **ancient lakes**.

## One Lake, Many Uses

Although Lake Champlain is shared by New York, Vermont and Quebec, Canada, the three places sometimes use the lake differently. For example, about 25% of Vermonters drink the lake's water, but only a small percent of New Yorkers drink it. More swimming beaches dot the Vermont shores. Different uses can determine how a lake is managed and sometimes the uses can even conflict with each other.

Visit: [www.worldlakes.org/searchlakes.asp](http://www.worldlakes.org/searchlakes.asp). Find two lakes that are shared by more than one country and fill in the blanks.

1. Lake \_\_\_\_\_ is shared by these countries:  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Two important economic uses of this lake are:  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Lake \_\_\_\_\_ is shared by these countries:  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Two important economic uses of this lake are:  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## "Kul" Terms:

### Ancient Lakes:

Lakes that are more than one million years old.

### Evaporation:

The conversion of a liquid, such as water, into a vapor (a gaseous state) usually through the application of heat energy.

### Indigenous:

Living or occurring naturally in a specific area or environment (native).

### Tributary:

A stream or river that flows into a larger stream, river, or lake.

### Watershed:

The land area from which surface runoff drains into a stream, lake or other body of water.

*\*Kul is the word for lake in Kyrgystan. It is pronounced like the word "cool."*

## Websites:

[www.lcbp.org](http://www.lcbp.org)

[www.echovermont.org](http://www.echovermont.org)

[www.worldlakes.org](http://www.worldlakes.org)

[www.epa.gov/kids/water.htm](http://www.epa.gov/kids/water.htm)

**About NEWTon:** NEWTon is the trademarked mascot of ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain on Vermont's Burlington Waterfront. NEWTon represents the Lake Champlain Basin's native red-spotted newt.

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