

# LAKES

**Lakes** are bigger and deeper than ponds, some as deep as 50 to 100 feet! They range from the size of a big parking lot to the size of a small town. Many lakes were made by humans to hold back flood waters or to provide drinking water. A few lakes are natural, formed when glaciers covered most of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has over 2,500 inland lakes totaling well over 200,000 acres.



**Lake Erie**, our largest lake, has over 735 square miles of water. Lake bottoms vary, with some very sandy to some with lots of rocks.

## Focus on Fishing

Lakes are home to fish that thrive in warmer water. Lakes are often deep enough that there is colder water near the bottom.



Bass, carp, catfish, panfish, walleyes and northern pike live in our lakes—not necessarily all together and in every lake.

**Walleyes** are a popular sport fish in some lakes. You can fish for walleyes from shore in many places. You can also troll for them from a boat, moving slowly through the water dragging the bait behind you. You can also jig for them while drifting or while anchored. Try some of the many walleye lures available at tackle stores. Experiment with different colors until you find the color they are biting on that day. Adding a nightcrawler or minnow to the lure's hook makes it even more attractive to a hungry walleye.

