



**St. Louis River Quest 2026**  
**Shipping Across the Great Lakes**

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MN Standard. 6E.1.2.1.1  
MN Standard 6E.3.2.1.2

Next Gen. (WI) MS-ETS1-1  
Engineering Design  
Next. Gen. (WI) MS-ESS2-5  
Earth's Systems

**Summary:**

Learn about the ships that sail across the Great Lakes and the cargo they bring to and from the Twin Ports. Do you have what it takes to successfully sail to your destination? Discover the different ships, routes, loads, and considerations that factor into making the trip across the United States' largest set of lakes.

**Learning Question:**

What cargo is being carried by the ships that sail across the Great Lakes?

**Learning Objectives:**

- 1) Identify the types of ships that can be found sailing the Great Lakes.
- 2) Name examples of *inbound* and *outbound* cargo different ships carry.
- 3) Define the criteria and constraints of shipping cargo to and from the Twin.
- 4) Theorize how *lake effect* and *climate change* impact shipping on the Great Lakes.

**Implementation:**

Great Lakes Aquarium volunteers will host a learning station featuring a game for students to stimulate and model the cargo and trips ships take when they traverse the Great Lakes.

Discussions may further elaborate on the importance of the cargo they carry, including how much of the cargo is Earth's mineral or energy resources. Questions around the past, present, and future constraints these ships must consider can be prompted to form an even more detailed understanding.

**References and Background:**

[St. Louis River Quest. Shipping Across the Great Lakes. References and Information](#)