

Brownie Girl Scout Try-It: The Islands of Lake Erie

The Lake Erie Islands can be a boatload of fun for even the youngest of girls. Brownies will need the help of their troop/group leader and/or parents to complete this Try-It. An adult should accompany Brownies while navigating websites.

1. What is an island anyway? Learn about this land feature *. How is it formed? Where does it form? What makes an island an island?

2. We use all different types of transportation to get around on land; cars, buses, even trains. But what about when you have to get over water*? And what if that water is frozen? Talk about how people may get to the islands from the mainland, and then look into how they actually do it.

3. What is a lighthouse and what is it used for? Are there any on the Lake Erie Islands? If so, where? Are they still in use today? Find out the answers to these questions and share them with your troop.

4. How would living on an island be different from living where you do? How would it be the same*? Talk about it with your friends and make a chart comparing about what you have discovered.

5. Read about the islands located in Lake Erie. What are they like? How many are there? What are they called? Which one is the biggest? The smallest? Are they all located in the United States? Write down what you have learned.

6. What kinds of animals live on these Lake Erie Islands*? How did they get there? Choose one to learn more about, collect photos of it and then create a collage to share with your troop.

7. Islands are all different shapes and sizes. Make a picture of what you think a Lake Erie island looks like *, use many different materials, such as paint, yarn, and scraps of paper. Or use salt dough to mold your very own Lake Erie Island. Decorate it with things that you would find on a Lake Erie Island. For example, twigs as trees, and small LEGOS stacked together as houses. With the help of an adult, you can use the following recipe to make your very own salt dough!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of fine salt
- 1 cup of flour

- 1/2 cup of water (you may add more if needed)

Instructions:

- ~ Combine salt and flour in a large bowl.
- ~ Make a well in the middle of the salt and flour mixture, and pour the water into it.
- ~ Knead the new mixture until smooth, and then shape it into a ball.
- ~ When not in use, put in a plastic container to store.

8. With your troop or family, visit one of Lake Erie's Islands, while you are there, visit a museum or nature center. What did you learn? Was there anything that surprised you?

9. Beachcombing is a popular pastime on most islands. Try it out while visiting one of Lake Erie's Islands. What did you find?

*Websites you can use:

http://www.clevelandmagazine.com/Media/Media Manager/Lake ErieIslands_0.jpg

(Link to cartoon view of the Islands)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Erie_Islands

(This link gives you some information about the Islands, and then links that give special information about each Island)

<http://www.misslebass2.org/LakeErieIslands.shtml>

(A link to a webpage giving you links to other web pages about the Lake Erie Islands)