

# SUPERIOR VIEW HIKE

## LESSON PLAN



**WOLF RIDGE**<sup>SM</sup>  
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

# SUPERIOR VIEW HIKE



## CLASS DESCRIPTION: A Natural History Hike

Students will take a three mile round trip hike along a section of the Wolf Ridge trail system and the Superior Hiking Trail. A spectacular overlook awaits them above Lake Superior. The instructor will involve students in a demonstration dealing with the importance of the lake's fresh water before leaving the classroom. Stopping along the way at five different rest stops, students will examine the geology, history, and meteorology of the area.

**Total time:** 3 hours (2 hours 10 minutes outdoors)

**Audience:** 6-20 students, 4th grade through adult

**Activity level:** strenuous

**Travel:** 3 miles

**Total uphill travel:** 330 feet

## GUIDING QUESTION

What are some important ecological and cultural stories related to Lake Superior?

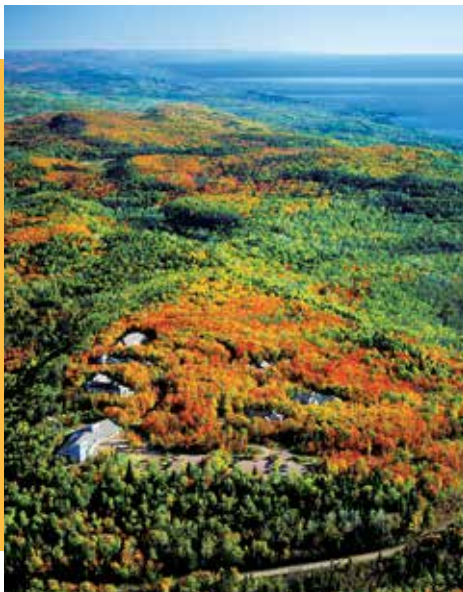
## CONCEPTS

- Stewardship: Freshwater is a limited resource and is distributed in different ways throughout the planet.
- Ecology: Ecosystems and landscapes are constantly changing and are affected by geological, ecological, and human factors.
- Outdoor Recreation: Exploring outside gives people a sense of place and gives access to amazing places.

## OUTCOMES

Upon completion of Superior View Hike class students will be able to:

1. Recount the geologic history of Wolf Ridge and Lake Superior.
2. Express the importance and value of fresh water, Lake Superior specifically.
3. Understand the geography of Lake Superior and how it has affected human history along its shores.
4. Describe the main pollution threats to Lake Superior.



**Our mission** is to develop a citizenry that has the knowledge, skills, motivation and commitment to act together for a quality environment.

6282 Cranberry Road | Finland, MN 55603-9700 | [www.wolf-ridge.org](http://www.wolf-ridge.org)

*Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center and the USDA are equal opportunity providers and employers.*



## Equipment

### Classroom Equipment:

- Lake Superior map
- Great Lakes map
- Superior/Baikal/Tangan-yika poster

### Hike Equipment:

- 2 daypacks
- 1 pair marine binoculars
- first aid kit
- two small travel maps
- "solo hike" cards
- Superior quiz cards
- recent history props

## Appendices

- Glossary
- Optional Activities
- References
- Sources
- Class Sheets
- Spiral Learning Sheet
- Planning Outline

## Set-up (10 min.)

- Classroom/class prep description
- Safety Management

## I. How Much Water is in the World? (30 min.)

- A. Comparison of the World's Largest Lake
- B. Freshwater Demonstration
- C. Lake Superior Geography

## II. What are Lake Superior's Stories? (65 min.) [Hike to Overlook]

- A. Geological Landscape Story
  1. Observation Missions
  2. Geology Charades
- B. Ecological and Cultural Landscape Story
  1. Observation Missions
  2. Recent Cultural and Natural Resource Use

## III. What is Our Lake Superior Story? (20 min.) [At overlook]

- A. Reflection
- B. Overlook Activities

## IV. Why Are Lakes Important? (65 min.) [Hike back to Wolf Ridge]

- A. Solo Hike
- B. Watershed
- C. Water Near You
- D. Song - The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald

## Clean-up (10 min.)