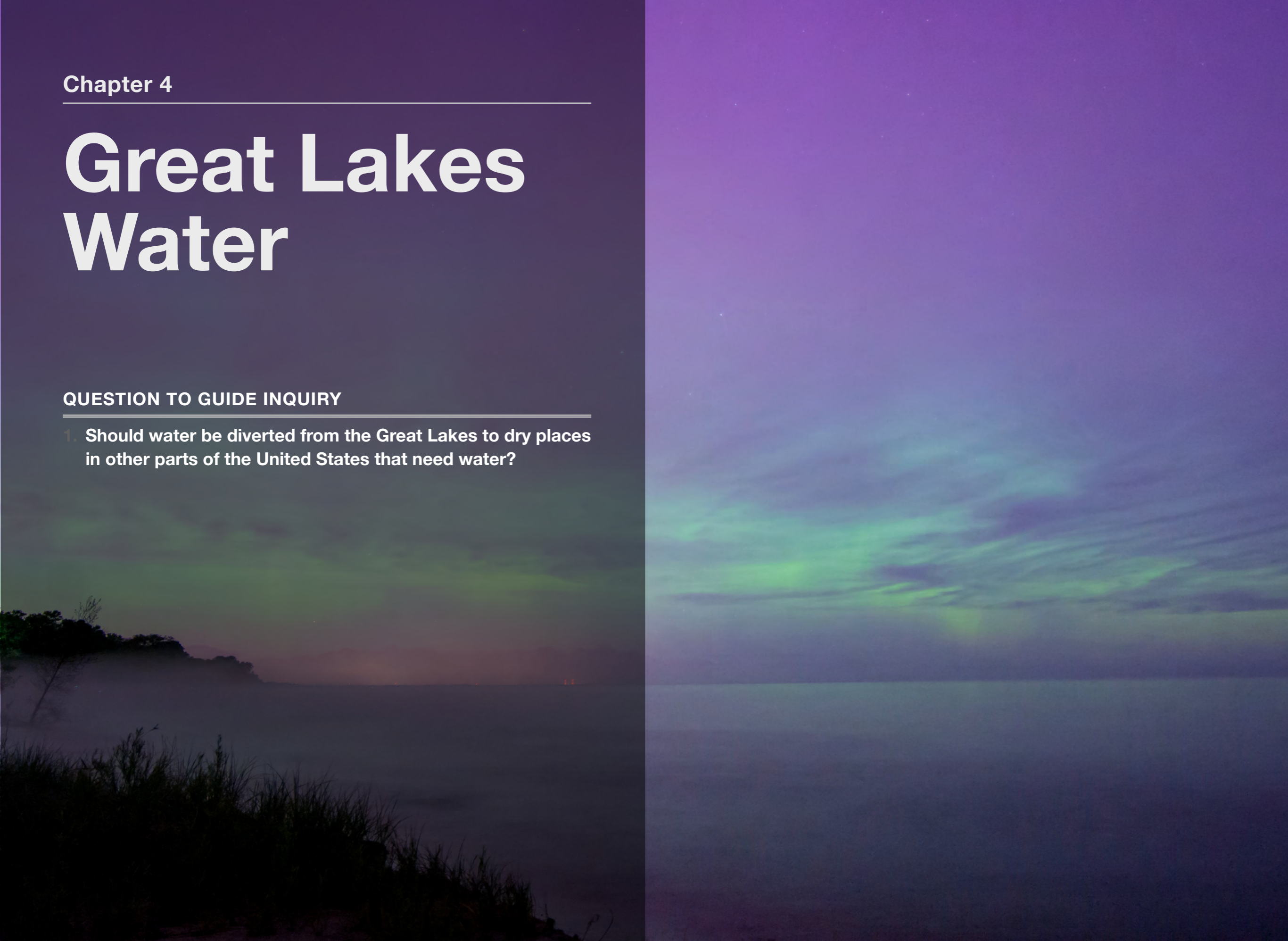


# Great Lakes Water

## QUESTION TO GUIDE INQUIRY

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1. Should water be diverted from the Great Lakes to dry places in other parts of the United States that need water?



# A Performance Task



## QUESTION TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. Should water be diverted from the Great Lakes to dry places in other parts of the United States that need water?

Should water from the Great Lakes be used in other places? The question of “**who owns the water?**” and “**should it be used to help other places in the country that need it?**” is one that our nation has been wrestling with for years.

You will be responsible for writing an opinion essay on this very topic. You will be introduced to the topic of decreasing water levels in the Great Lakes by watching two videos and reading a short passage.

Finally you will compose an opinion essay on the public issue: **Should water be diverted from the Great Lakes to other parts of the United States that need water?**

## Directions for beginning:

You will now watch two videos and read one article. Take notes because you may want to refer to your notes while writing your essay. You can refer to any of the sources as often as you like while you are taking notes. Your notes and sources will be your basis for writing your final draft.

The first video will introduce you to a town called New Berlin in Wisconsin. New Berlin is very

close to the Great Lakes, but the ground water that they have access to is not safe to drink.

Learn about this topic in the first video.

There are many in Michigan who would

### Interactive 4.1 The Great Lakes Water Battle



*Watch this video first to learn more about the issue overall.*

agree that the town of New Berlin has some serious problems! Especially when it comes to having access to safe, clean drinking water. The first video mentioned however that this is a very sensitive issue, particularly for those living in the Great Lakes.

Think back to the unit on Geography. Remember that one of the ways that the theme of “movement” takes place is over the water. Ships travel around the Great Lakes carrying cargo that will be used in the production of goods. If we divert the water this might become difficult. This second video will explain the struggle for those who depend on the Great Lakes to carry out their business. While many

### Interactive 4.2 Lake Superior is Disappearing



*Next, watch this video which talks about what is happening to our Great Lakes*

Michiganders feel for those who do not have access to water, some will argue that sending the water from the Great Lakes to other parts of the country will have disastrous effects here at home.



According to the videos, what factors contribute to decreasing water levels in the Great Lakes and what are the effects of those decreasing water levels?

It's not just about the economy either. Scientists caution that every ecosystem (like the ones found in the Great Lakes) has a very delicate balance. Changes in the water levels could cause lasting damage to the species that live in the Great Lakes. This article

**Interactive 4.3** Why Water Diversion is an Ecological Problem for Lakes



will tell you a little more about what scientists are thinking.



According to the article, what are some of the ecological effects of water diversion from lakes?

This is not a problem that is easily solved. It is, however, a public issue that affects people living in Michigan, people in the Great Lakes region, and people all over the United States. Because of that, it is an interesting problem to study and develop an opinion on.

The first step in tackling an issue of public policy is to identify and clearly state the issue. In this particular case, the issue comes in the form of a question. Our question “Should water be diverted from the Great Lakes?” is a special kind

of question known as a “Compelling question” Ask any adult in your life and they’re probably going to argue one way or another about their answer. They’re either against sending water from the lakes, or for it.

A great way to argue however is to think about both sides of the issue. Even though you may have a strong argument for one side over another, when outlining what your major points it’s a good idea to think about what the people who do NOT think the same way might say.

The final activity in this section requires you to do just that. As you open the Google Document, identify first what the level of this issue is. Next, take a moment to figure out what a position on either side of this might be. Think about the people who are “against” sending the water to other parts of the country. What is something

they might say? Think about the people who are “for” sending the water to other parts of the country. What is something they might say?

**Interactive 4.4** Google Docs



*Complete the Public Issue Analysis Chart on sharing the water of the Great Lakes*



# Performance Task

## QUESTION TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. Should water be diverted from the Great Lakes to dry places in other parts of the United States that need water?

By watching the two video clips in the previous section, as well as reading the short article, you have had time to learn more about the issue: **Should water be diverted from the Great Lakes to places in other parts of the United States that need water?**

You will now be asked to review your notes and sources, plan, draft, and revise your essay. While you may use your notes and refer to the sources, you must work on your own. You may also refer to the answers you wrote to the earlier questions, but you cannot change those answers. Now read about your assignment on the next page, as well as the information about how your essay will be scored. Once you have done so, you may begin your work.

## **Your assignment**

You have read one informational article and watched two videos about water in the Great Lakes.

Write an essay defending your position on the public issue: Should water be diverted from the Great Lakes to places in other parts of the United States that need water? In your essay, be sure to use evidence from the articles and video to support your position.

### **How your essay will be scored:**

1. Statement of purpose/focus – how well you clearly state your position on the topic and maintain your focus.
2. Organization – how well your ideas logically flow from the introduction to conclusion using

effective transitions and how well you stay on topic throughout the essay

3. Elaboration of evidence – how well you provide evidence from sources about your position and elaborate with specific information
4. Language and Vocabulary – how well you effectively express ideas using precise language that is appropriate for your audience and purpose.
5. Conventions – how well you follow the rules of usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.