

Lake Erie is Dead!

Read "[Thanks A Lot, Ohio](#)" for Context

period

- Near the close of every summer, Lake Erie becomes a dead zone.

1) What is dissolved oxygen content?

2) Why does this decrease during the summer months?

3) What exactly is a dead zone? *make an educated guess*

- Examine the profile of the five Great Lakes.

4) How does the depth of Lake Erie compare to the other four?

5) What effect does this have on pollution in Lake Erie?

6) What is retention time? How does a short retention time benefit Lake Erie?

- Like other forms of pollution, phosphorus enters the system by the many rivers that feed into the Great Lakes.

7) What river deposits the most phosphorus into Lake Erie? Looking at the map, explain why this river is unique?

8) Relative to the size of its drainage basin, what river contains the highest concentration of phosphorus?

9) What effect does phosphorus have on the ecosystem of Lake Erie? *make an educated guess*

- The study of phosphorus release offers clues into the economic and demographic patterns of the region.

10) Based on the data provided, what type of agriculture is common in Western New York?

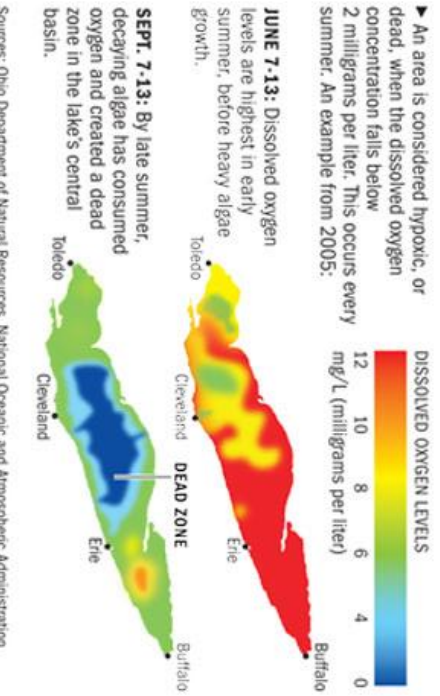
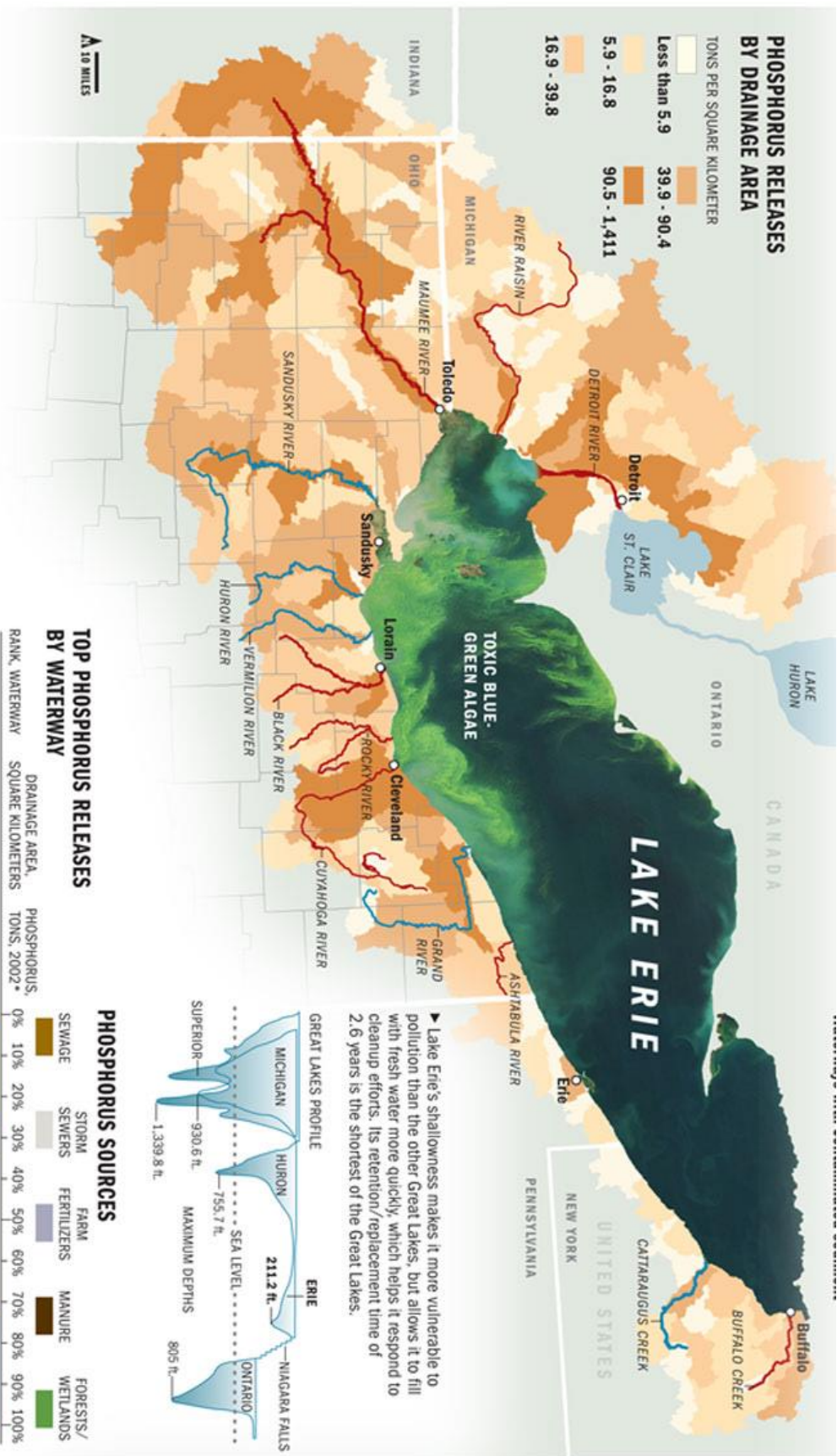
11) In what region of Ohio is grain farming prominent?

12) The phosphorus from what two rivers basins consists mostly of sewage? Why is this the case? *make an educated guess*

- The problem of phosphorus pollution is persistent.

13) To combat pollution, political challenges must be overcome. What challenges are unique to the Lake Erie basin?

14) Discuss the economic impact of summer dead zones on Lake Erie.
What present and future problems might they pose?



Sources: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration