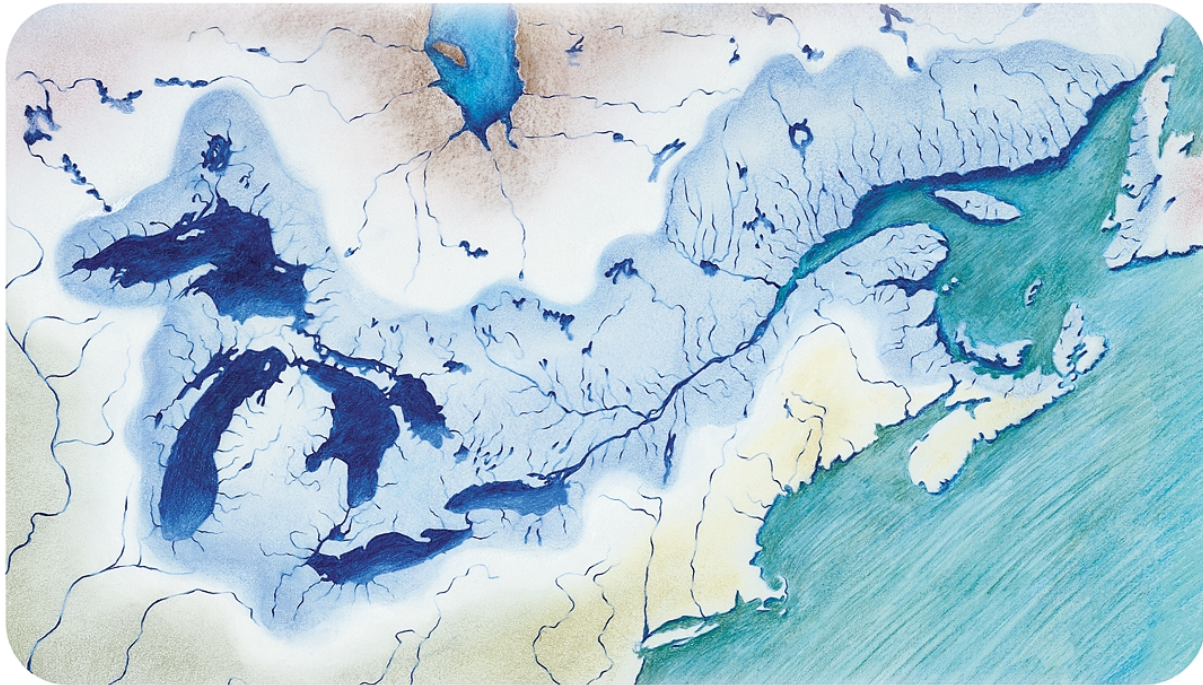


PRELIMINARY ACTIVITY 1  
TEACHING NOTES 1D***The St. Lawrence Watershed***

*The geographic territory that drains into a stream is called a watershed or river basin. River basins are combined when two streams meet to form a larger one. Thus, the St. Lawrence watershed is composed of the Great Lakes basin as well as the catchments of its tributaries, including the Ottawa, Saint-François, Saint-Maurice and Saguenay Rivers.*

*The size of the watershed depends on the topography of the territory. The closer you get to high ground, the smaller the watersheds and the more they diverge. For example, in the Canadian Rockies there is a stream that divides into two branches, one flowing towards the Arctic via the Mackenzie River and the other, towards the Pacific via the Fraser River.*

*In the St. Lawrence river basin, which is relatively flat, the subwatersheds tend to converge very quickly, following the valleys carved out by the glaciers and meeting in larger rivers. Thus, even though the rainfall in the area is not especially high, the St. Lawrence River has a very large volume of flow of more than 10,000 cubic metres per second.*

From the book ***Le fleuve aux grandes eaux*** and illustrated by Frédéric Back, page 19