



Glacial striations (scratches, gouges and cuts in the bedrock) are found along Ohio's coast.

Natural forces formed and continue to shape Lake Erie and its watershed.

The oldest rocks beneath Lake Erie and the watershed originated when saltwater covered the basin (400 million years ago). Evidence of the ocean past includes limestone bedrock and salt deposits found deep below the lake's bottom.

Lake Erie was created by mile-high sheets of ice during multiple glaciations. (1 million to 12,600 years ago)

As glaciers advanced and retreated, they left deposits such as clay, peat, sand and gravel which are now economically valuable.

Today, lake level changes, wave action, development and the type of soil along the shore and in the nearshore influence the shape of the coast.

Lake Erie Literacy Principle 2d:
Erosion - the wearing away of rock, soil and other earth materials - occurs in coastal areas as wind, waves, river flow and currents in Lake Erie move sediments.

2f: Beaches, barrier beaches and coastal wetlands protect upland areas by reducing the impact of storm waves and wind tides [known as seiches].

