

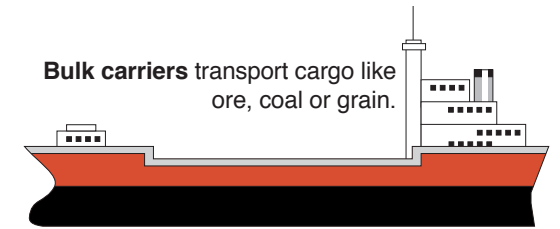
SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2012



Jacques Cartier  
(1491-1557)

# World of Wonder

EXPLORING THE REALMS OF HISTORY, SCIENCE, NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY



Bulk carriers transport cargo like ore, coal or grain.

# ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

One of the longest rivers in North America, the St. Lawrence flows 744 miles (1,197 km) from Lake Ontario to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Atlantic Ocean. The river is the outflow for the entire Great Lakes system and runs through Canadian and U.S. lands. In addition to providing drinking water and attracting vacationers and tourists, the river serves as a vital shipping highway.

First observed in 1985, the invasive **zebra mussel** (introduced from ship ballast) has been detrimental to many native river species.

## Did you know?

- The Upper St. Lawrence and the Thousand Islands were known as the Garden of the Great Spirit among natives of the region.
- The river is 250 feet (76.2 m) at its deepest point.
- The St. Lawrence–Great Lakes hydrographic system is one of the largest in the world. It drains more than 25 percent of the Earth’s freshwater reserves.
- It is estimated that this mass of water would take 40 years to pour over Niagara Falls at the computed rate of 1 million cubic feet a second.

## In a word

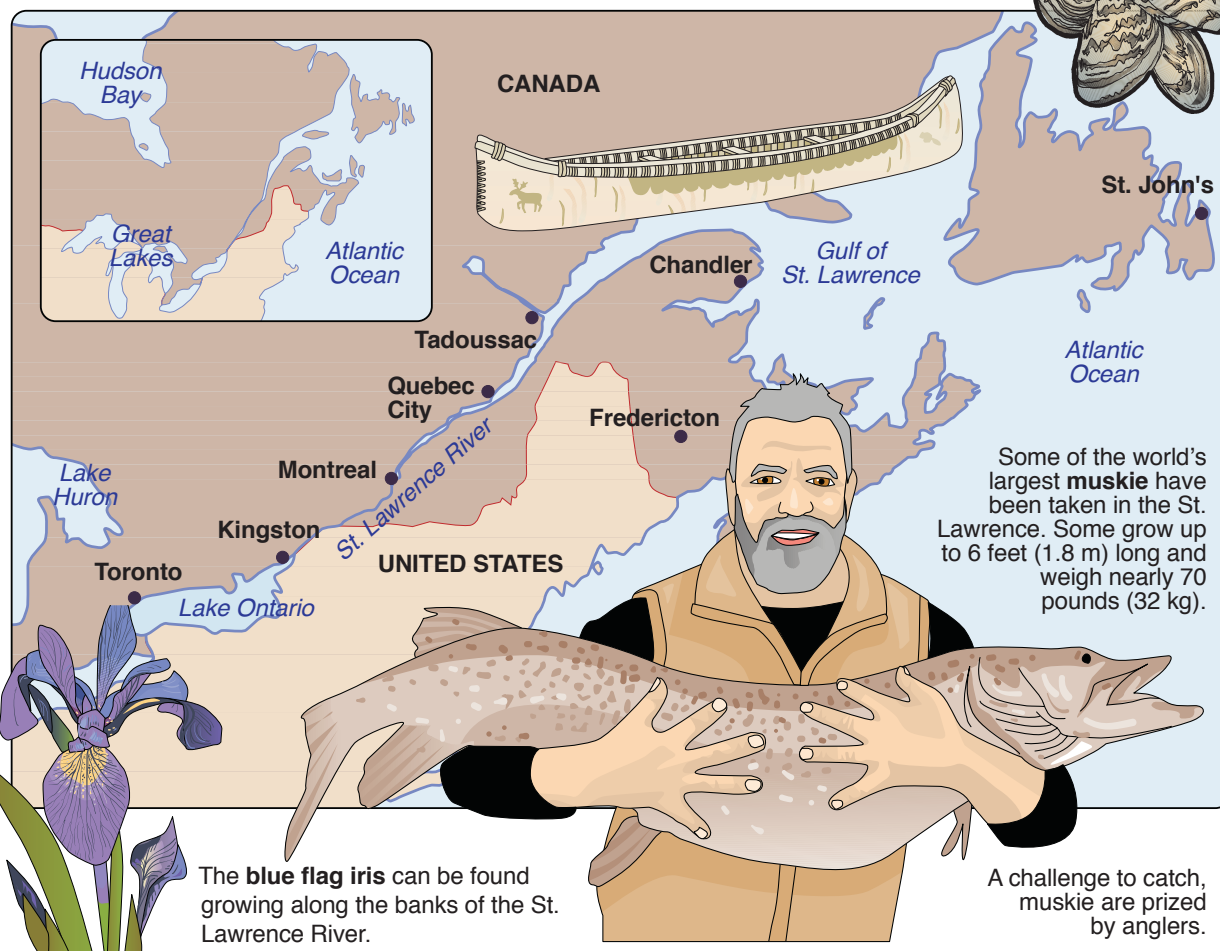
When Jacques Cartier arrived in the St. Lawrence region, he was told about a route to “Kanata.” Kanata was the Huron-Iroquois word for village, but the word “Canada” came to describe an entire country.

Cartier named the St. Lawrence River for the Catholic saint, but it was also known as the Riviere de Canada (River of Canada). The Mohawk people called it “Kaniatarowanenneh,” which translates as “big waterway.”

## In brief

The St. Lawrence is a young river, formed by glaciers 10,000 years ago. Long before Europeans arrived, the river served as a natural highway for Native Americans and their canoes. Later, the St. Lawrence played an important role in Canada’s early history, serving as the primary route for explorers and the main artery of New France. Its shores saw brutal wars and eventually became home to several major cities.

The river remains the most important commercial waterway in Canada and a vital source of electric power and natural beauty.



The **blue flag iris** can be found growing along the banks of the St. Lawrence River.

Some of the world’s largest **muskie** have been taken in the St. Lawrence. Some grow up to 6 feet (1.8 m) long and weigh nearly 70 pounds (32 kg).

A challenge to catch, muskie are prized by anglers.

## The Thousand Islands

The Upper St. Lawrence is home to the Thousand Islands region, which has 1,864 islands. To be considered an island, the land must be surrounded by water, be above water all year long and support at least one tree.

## St. Lawrence Seaway

The St. Lawrence River is connected to a series of locks, canals and channels that make up the St. Lawrence Seaway (nicknamed Highway H2O), a water highway connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. The St. Lawrence Seaway took 15,000 people and four years to build, beginning in 1955.

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