



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Effects of Climate Change on the Great Lakes

The reading included a statement that said that more rain and snow in winter could cause the level of the lakes to go up. In this statement, “more rain” is the cause, and “higher water level” is the effect.

Draw a line from each cause in the left-hand column to the most likely effect on the right.

### CAUSE

### EFFECT

higher water temperature

more plants growing near shore

stronger summer storms

less ice cover in winter

shallower water

possible damage to docks

Here is another set of possible causes and effects. This one is a little more complicated, because some causes may have more than one effect, and some effects may have more than one cause. Draw lines from each cause to all of the possible effects. Then add curving lines in the right-hand margin if you think that an effect could be the cause of another effect.

### CAUSE

### EFFECT

Higher water temperature

less oxygen in lake water for fish

Less total rain in summer

more lake-effect snow in winter

Lower average water levels

less ice cover on lakes in winter

Stronger winds during storms

last spring frost on nearby land is earlier

If you found this hard, you are not alone. Trying to decide what is cause and what is effect is a difficult job. It is even more complicated when the causes and effects are different in different places or different seasons. For example, warmer water may cause fish to die in a shallow bay in Lake Erie (the shallowest and warmest lake). At the same time, warmer water may stimulate more plant growth and more fish populations in a deep part of Lake Superior (the deepest and coldest lake). For this reason, people in Michigan must be very careful when they read scientific studies done in other lakes. The results might not apply to the parts of the Great Lakes that touch Michigan.