

Chicago History

"It is hopeless for the occasional visitor to try to keep up with Chicago. She outgrows his prophecies faster than he can make them." - Mark Twain, 1883

Chicago was only 46 years old when Mark Twain wrote those words, but it had already grown more than 100-fold, from a small trading post at the mouth of the Chicago River into one of the nation's largest cities, and it wasn't about to stop. Over the next 20 years, it would quadruple in population, amazing the rest of the world with its ability to repeatedly reinvent itself.

And it still hasn't stopped. Today, Chicago has become a global city, a thriving center of international trade and commerce, and a place where people of every nationality come to pursue the American dream.

Early Chicago

Chicago's first permanent resident was a trader named **Jean Baptiste Point du Sable**, a free black man allegedly from Haiti, who came here in the late 1770s. In 1795, the U.S. government built **Fort Dearborn** at what is now the corner of Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive (look for the bronze markers in the pavement). It was burned to the ground by Native Americans in 1812, rebuilt and demolished in 1857.

A Trading Center

Incorporated as a city in 1837, Chicago was ideally situated to take advantage of the trading possibilities created by the nation's westward expansion. The completion of the **Illinois & Michigan Canal** in 1848 created a water link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River, but the canal was soon rendered obsolete by railroads. Today, 50 percent of U.S. rail freight continues to pass through Chicago, even as the city has become the nation's busiest aviation center, thanks to **O'Hare and Midway International airports**.

The Great Fire of 1871

As Chicago grew, its residents took dauntless measures to keep pace. In the 1850s, they raised many of the streets five to eight feet to install a sewer system – and then raised the buildings, as well. Unfortunately, the buildings, streets and sidewalks were made of wood, and most of them burned to the ground in the **Great Chicago Fire of 1871**. The Chicago Fire Department training academy at 558 W. DeKoven St. is on the site of the O'Leary property where the fire began. The **Chicago Water Tower and Pumping Station** at Michigan and Chicago avenues are among the few buildings to have survived the fire.

"The White City"

Chicago rebuilt quickly. Much of the debris from the fire was dumped into Lake Michigan as landfill, forming the underpinnings for what is now Grant Park, Millennium Park and the Art Institute of Chicago. Only 22 years later, Chicago celebrated its comeback by holding the **World's Columbian Exposition of 1893**, with its memorable "White City." It became known as the "White City" because the exposition buildings used [plaster of Paris](#) and were painted a chalky white. One of the Exposition buildings was rebuilt to become the **Museum of Science and Industry**. Chicago refused to be discouraged even by the Great Depression. In 1933 and 1934, the city held an equally successful **Century of Progress Exposition** on Northerly Island.

Hull House

In the half-century following the Great Fire, waves of immigrants came to Chicago to take jobs in the factories and meatpacking plants. Many poor workers and their families found help in settlement houses operated by **Jane Addams** and her followers. Her **Hull House Museum** is located at 800 S. Halsted St.

Chicago Firsts

Throughout their city's history, Chicagoans have demonstrated their ingenuity in matters large and small:

- The nation's first skyscraper, the 10-story, steel-framed Home Insurance Building, was built in 1884 at LaSalle and Adams streets and demolished in 1931.
- When residents were threatened by waterborne illnesses from sewage flowing into Lake Michigan, they reversed the Chicago River in 1900 to make it flow toward the Mississippi.
- Start of the "Historic Route 66" which begins at Grant Park on Adams Street in the front of the Art Institute of Chicago.
- Chicago was the birthplace of:
 - the refrigerated rail car (Swift)
 - mail-order retailing (Sears and Montgomery Ward)
 - the car radio (Motorola)
 - the TV remote control (Zenith)
- The first self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction, ushering in the Atomic Age, took place at the University of Chicago in 1942. The spot is marked by a Henry Moore sculpture on Ellis Avenue between 56th and 57th streets.
- The 1,450-foot Sears Tower, completed in 1974, is the tallest building in North America and the third tallest in the world.

Our sole female mayor, **Jane M. Byrne**, served from 1979 to 1983, and was succeeded by our first African-American mayor, **Harold Washington**, who served until his death in 1987. **Richard M. Daley** (1989 – 2011) became the longest serving mayor in December of 2010 surpassing his father **Richard J. Daley’s** (1955-1976) record of 22 years in office. Richard M. Daley reformed education and public housing, strengthened community policing and overseen construction of billions of dollars of schools, libraries, police stations and infrastructure, as well as the renovation of Soldier Field and the creation of Millennium Park.

City of Chicago. (2013). Chicago History. Retrieved March 18, 2013, from The City of Chicago Official Site:
<http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/about/history.html>

“Chicago”

Carl Sandburg

Hog Butcher of the World,
Tool maker, Stacker of Wheat,
Player with Railroads and the Nation’s Freight Handler;
Stormy, husky, brawling,
5 City of the Big Shoulders:
They tell me you are wicked and I believe them, for I
 have seen your painted women under the gas lamps
 luring the farm boys.
And they tell me you are crooked and I answer: Yes, it
10 is true I have seen the gunman kill and go free to kill again.
And they tell me you are brutal and my reply is: On the
 faces of women and children I have seen the marks
 of wanton hunger.
And having answered so I turn once more to those who
15 sneer at this my city, and I give them back the sneer
 and say to them:
Come and show me another city with lifted head singing
 so proud to be alive and coarse and strong and cunning.
Flinging magnetic curses amid the toil of piling job on
20 job, here is a tall bold slugger set vivid against the
 little soft cities;
Fierce as a dog with tongue lapping for action, cunning
 as a savage pitted against the wilderness,
Bareheaded,
25 Shoveling,
 Wrecking,
 Planning,
 Building, breaking, rebuilding,
Under the smoke, dust all over his mouth, laughing with
30 white teeth,
Under the terrible burden of destiny laughing as a young
 man laughs,
Laughing even as an ignorant fighter laughs who has
 never lost a battle,
35 Bragging and laughing that under his wrists is the pulse.
 and under his ribs the heart of the people,
 Laughing!
Laughing the stormy, husky, brawling laughter of
 Youth, half-naked, sweating, proud to be Hog
40 Butcher, Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat, Player with
 Railroads and Freight Handler to the Nation.

Answer the following questions using the text entitled "Chicago History."

1. Read this sentence from the "Chicago History" text.

"It is hopeless for the occasional visitor to try to keep up with Chicago. She outgrows his prophecies faster than he can make them." Mark Twain, 1883

What conclusion may best be drawn from the Mark Twain's description?

- A. Chicago is a hopeless place to visit.
 - B. Chicago grows so fast that visitors can't keep up with predicted changes.
 - C. Chicago outgrows other cities.
 - D. Visitors make prophecies when they visit Chicago.
2. Read this excerpt from the "Chicago History" text.

Chicago's first permanent resident was a trader named Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, a free black man apparently from Haiti, who came here in the late 1770s. In 1795, the U.S. government build Fort Dearborn at what is now the corner of Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive (look for the bronze markers in the pavement). It was burned to the ground by Native Americans in 1812, rebuilt and demolished in 1857.

The text structures of this paragraph can best be described as:

- A. Descriptive text structure and Point of View text structure
 - B. Spatial text structure and Descriptive text structure
 - C. Chronological or Time Sequence text structure and Descriptive text structure
 - D. Compare and Contrast text structure and Problem Solution text structure
3. The overall tone of the "Chicago History" text can best be described as:
- A. Witty
 - B. Expectant
 - C. Direct
 - D. Resigned

4. Which book would be most useful in learning more about the history of Chicago?

- A. *Destination: Chicago Jazz*
- B. *Chicago: A Photographic Celebration*
- C. *The Coast of Chicago*
- D. *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*

5. Read this excerpt from the text "Chicago History."

"It is hopeless for the occasional visitor to try to keep up with Chicago. She outgrows his prophecies faster than he can make them." Mark Twain, 1883

Chicago was only 46 years old when Mark Twain wrote those words, but it had already grown more than 100-fold, from a small trading post at the mouth of the Chicago River into one of the nation's largest cities, and it wasn't about to stop. Over the next 20 years, it would quadruple in population, amazing the rest of the world with its ability to repeatedly reinvent itself.

Which three phrases from this excerpt convey the author's intent to capture Chicago's expansion?

You must select all three correct phrases for your answer to be correct.

- A. "She outgrows his prophecies"
- B. "Grown more than 100-fold"
- C. "Wasn't about to stop"
- D. "Quadruple in population"
- E. "Ability to repeatedly reinvent itself"

6. Read this selection from the "Chicago History" text:

In the half-century following the Great Fire, waves of immigrants came to Chicago to take jobs in the factories and meatpacking plants. Many poor workers and their families found help in settlement houses operated by Jane Addams and her followers. Her Hull House Museum is located at 800 S. Halsted St.

Based on this selection, the reader may best infer that:

- A. Chicago settlement houses ministered to new comers.
 - B. All Chicagoans demonstrated their hospitality.
 - C. Immigrants were self-sustaining.
 - D. Jane Addams operated Hull House Museums.
7. In the "Chicago History" text, read this sentence from the paragraph entitled "A Trading Center":

The completion of the Illinois & Michigan Canal in 1848 created a water link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River, but the canal was soon rendered obsolete by railroads.

In this sentence, the word rendered means:

- A. To do or perform
 - B. To become or to make
 - C. To exhibit or show
 - D. To furnish or provide
8. In the "Chicago History" text, which of the following words does NOT contribute to the general tone of the passage?
- A. Direct
 - B. Unambiguous
 - C. Straightforward
 - D. Indifferent

9. Read this sentence from the paragraph entitled "The Great Fire of 1871":

"As Chicago grew, its residents took dauntless measures to keep pace."

In this sentence, the word dauntless does NOT mean:

- A. Brave
 - B. Heroic
 - C. Gallant
 - D. Apprehensive
10. Which organizational plan is used in the sentence below:
- "In the 1850s, they raised many of the streets five to eight feet to install a sewer system..."**
- A. Point of View text structure
 - B. Narrative text structure
 - C. Spatial text structure
 - D. Compare and Contrast text structure
11. The point of view of the writer of the "Chicago History" text selection could best be described as:
- A. First Person
 - B. Second Person
 - C. Third Person
 - D. Third Person Omniscient
12. Which question is not answered in paragraph entitled "The White City"?
- A. How did the city of Chicago make a comeback?
 - B. Why did people call it "The White City"?
 - C. What kind of museums were built in the 1930s?
 - D. Where was the Sears Tower built?

13. In the section entitled "Chicago Firsts" the word ingenuity means:
- A. Inventiveness
 - B. Fortunes
 - C. Aberrations
 - D. Vexations
14. In the "Chicago History" text, which question is answered in the section "Chicago Firsts"?
- A. What is the purpose of 800 S. Halsted St.?
 - B. What did Mayor Richard M. Daley reform?
 - C. What should be done with debris from the Chicago Fire?
 - D. What caused the construction of Millennium Park?
15. According to the section entitled "A Trading Center", what is the best way to maintain commerce in Chicago?
- A. Design new streets and sewer systems
 - B. Separate the trading possibilities
 - C. Build railroads in accessible places
 - D. Organize the road markers for avenues and drives.
16. In the section "The White City," the word exposition means:
- A. The act of explaining
 - B. A large scale exhibition or show
 - C. Writing a speech intended to explain
 - D. The act of presenting to display

"Chicago" poem by Carl Sandburg

Answer the following questions using the text entitled "Chicago."

1. Which statement best expresses the meaning of this poem?
 - A. People have been demoralized and destroyed by the life hardships in cities like Chicago.
 - B. Chicago is a dark, violent, and dirty city with no redeeming qualities.
 - C. Its grit and hardships endow Chicago with positive qualities as well as negative ones.
 - D. People who are not familiar with Chicago often overlook its refinement and sophistication.

2. In describing Chicago, Sandburg primarily employs which literary device:
 - A. Personification
 - B. Allegory
 - C. Allusion
 - D. Foreshadowing

3. Sandburg conveys a sense of vitality and movement by:
 - A. Describing the city in short, sometimes one-word lines
 - B. Making each line of the poem shorter than the last
 - C. Beginning the poem with a series of allegations and responses
 - D. Eliminating use of any type of punctuation

4. Read line 20 of the "Chicago" poem.

**"here is a tall bold slugger set vivid against the
little soft cities;"**

The word soft most nearly means:

- A. Eastern
- B. Clean
- C. Weak
- D. Gentle

5. From information in the poem, we can logically infer that the speaker:
- A. is a construction worker
 - B. does not believe there is anything bad about Chicago
 - C. lives in Chicago
 - D. once lived in the country
6. Which of these describes the rhyme and meter used in the “Chicago” poem?
- A. Stream of consciousness
 - B. Iambic pentameter
 - C. Free verse
 - D. Blank verse
7. The speaker’s tone in the “Chicago” poem is:
- A. Bewildered
 - B. Scornful
 - C. Wistful
 - D. Forthright
8. Read the lines 17 and 18 of Carl Sandburg’s poem entitled “Chicago.”

“Come and show me another city with lifted head singing so proud to be alive and coarse and strong and cunning.”

This line illustrates the poet’s use of:

- A. Alliteration
- B. Personification
- C. Allegory
- D. Allusion

9. Read this line of Carl Sandburg's poem entitled "Chicago."

"Fierce as a dog with tongue lapping for action, cunning as a savage pitted against the wilderness,"

This line illustrates the poet's use of:

- A. Metaphor
 - B. Simile
 - C. Allusion
 - D. Onomatopoeia
10. Read this line of Carl Sandburg's poem entitled "Chicago."

"Fierce as a dog with tongue lapping for action, cunning as a savage pitted against the wilderness,"

Which is the best synonym for the word cunning in this poem?

- A. Shrewd
- B. Shy
- C. Naïve
- D. Angry

11. Read these lines from Carl Sandburg's poem entitled "Chicago."

"They tell me you are wicked and I believe them, for I
have seen your painted women under the gas lamps
luring the farm boys.
And they tell me you are crooked and I answer: Yes, it
is true I have seen the gunman kill and go free to kill again.
And they tell me you are brutal and my reply is: On the
the faces of women and children I have seen the marks
of wanton hunger."

Which four words from this excerpt convey the author's tone to capture Chicago's perils?

All answers must be correct to receive full credit for this question.

- A. wicked
- B. painted
- C. crooked
- D. free
- E. brutal
- F. faces
- G. wanton

12. The point of view of Carl Sandburg's poem entitled "Chicago" can best be described as:

- A. First Person, poet
- B. Second Person
- C. Third Person, poet
- D. Third Person Omniscient

13. Read this sentence from paragraph 3.

**"Laughing even as an ignorant fighter laughs who has
never lost a battle,"**

What is the purpose of the simile in this line?

- A. To describe Chicago's tenacity
- B. To foreshadow later events in the poem
- C. To suggest Chicago's harshness
- D. To establish a tone of despair about Chicago

Comparison of "Chicago History" and "Chicago" poem.**Answer the following questions comparing both passages.**

1. Which phrase best describes the author's tone in both the "Chicago History" text and the poem entitled "Chicago" by Carl Sandburg?
 - A. Joyful and filled with glee
 - B. Anxious and unpredictable
 - C. Melancholy and emotional
 - D. Informative and matter of fact

2. Which best expresses the general theme in both the "Chicago History" text and the poem "Chicago" by Carl Sandburg?
 - A. Destruction of the family
 - B. The struggles of developing the land or frontier
 - C. Inner conflicts stemming from patriotism
 - D. Suffering as a natural part of the human experience

2. Which best expresses the similarities between the text "Chicago History" and the poem "Chicago" by Carl Sandburg?
 - A. Both emphasize the cuisine of the city.
 - B. Both describe the industrialization of the city.
 - C. Both celebrate famous museums of the city.
 - D. Both explain the relationship between men and women in the city.

3. Based upon the text "Chicago History" and the poem "Chicago" by Carl Sandburg, which sentence is probably true?
 - A. Both authors believe Chicago has unique features.
 - B. Both authors have disdain for the city of Chicago.
 - C. Both authors admire the historical buildings in Chicago.
 - D. Both authors report the crime rate statistics in Chicago.

4. Based upon the text “Chicago History” and the poem “Chicago” by Carl Sandburg, both authors gain the reader’s attention at the beginning of the texts by:
- A. Describing the visitors to the city of Chicago
 - B. Being astonished about Chicago’s size
 - C. Commenting on the usefulness of the Chicago River
 - D. Describing Chicago as a worldwide metropolis where people engage in trade and commerce
5. Read this line from the poem “Chicago” by Carl Sandburg.

“And they tell me you are brutal and my reply is: On the faces of women and children I have seen the marks of wanton hunger.”

Which topic in the “Chicago History” text is Sandburg probably addressing?

- A. Chicago Firsts
- B. A Trading Center
- C. Hull House operations
- D. Early Chicago