



LOCAL HISTORY :

Local History camp is learning about the community we live in—how it came to be the place we love today! Choose at least 5 activities to read, watch, do, write, record, and share about our home of BROOKFIELD and LA GRANGE PARK. Here is a list of ideas and resources... or just start exploring and see where you go! Just start with the question, “I wonder why ... ?”

NOTE: We are defining local history around the D95 communities of Brookfield and La Grange Park. But local history can be as small as your neighborhood, house, and family. But it can also be as large as our county, the Chicago area, Illinois, and more as you zoom out. It's all connected and part of our story! Pick what interests you and see where and when it leads you...

READ

Check out local history books from the Brookfield or LGP public libraries

- *Brookfield, Illinois, A History* (available as an ebook <https://library.biblioboard.com/viewer/ecee1087-8932-4252-948f-55d2cac1c6b6>)
- *La Grange Park : Reflections of the Past* by Tina Sonderby
- *La Grange and La Grange Park, Illinois* by RoseAnna Mueller (Images of America)
- *100 years of Educational Excellence : S.E. Gross School in Brookfield, Illinois*
- *Brookfield Zoo and the Chicago Zoological Society* by Douglas Deuchler (Images of America)
- [*Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth, 1820-2000*](#) by Dolores Hayden



Read the history of our area on local historical society websites and scroll through the historical photos

- <https://www.facebook.com/BrookfieldHistoricalSociety>
- <https://www.lagrangehistory.org/history/early-history-of-la-grange-park/>

Can you answer:

- Who founded Brookfield and what was it originally called?
- Why was La Grange Park established?
- When was Brook Park built and what grades did it have?
- When was the original S.E. Gross built and what grades did it have?
- When was RB started?

WRITE

Write a story about the adventures of kid YOUR AGE living in YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD back in the year 19___. (Pick any year!)

ART/CREATE

Draw a map of historical Brookfield or La Grange Park showing one of the below:

- Plotting out where the old farms were
- Showing the original streets and subdivisions
- Train and trolley maps
- Original Brookfield Zoo layout

Links to some historic maps online

- 1914 maps of Brookfield and LGP 065-068
<http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/12047/Cook+County+1914+Proviso+Township/Illinois/Cook%20County%201914%20Proviso%20Township/>
- 1851 <https://www.loc.gov/item/2013593073/>
- 1862 <https://www.loc.gov/item/2013593075/>
- 1890 <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4103c.la000108/>
- 1895 https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn01790_009/
- Plat of Grossdale
<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=448144369061229&set=a.213115202564148>
- Brookfield Zoo 1948
<https://nwcartographic.com/products/mp11102?variant=8174098448445>

Make a diorama of a scene from a time and place in the past. (The Brookfield Historical Society has several cool dioramas on display!)

- How to make a diorama
http://www.stormthecastle.com/mainpages/dioramas/diorama_tutorial1.htm
- A visit to the dioramas at the Chicago History museum
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vmso0Jziga8>

GET OUTSIDE & RECORD

Walk or bike around Brookfield/La Grange Park and complete a photo scavenger hunt of current and former historical buildings, houses, bridges, schools, and more!

Make a video introducing your community and its history. Use photos, visit locations, interview residents, tell stories, be creative!

MAKE (COOK, EXPERIMENT, BUILD, ETC.)

Create a historical marker for a local location that describes and commemorates a moment or place in our community's history. Use poster board, construction paper, or other materials to make the sign.

- Assignment <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson-docs/30810HistMarkerAssign.pdf>
- How to research for a historical marker <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS49>

Learn how new towns were developed and sold in the late 1800s and then make an advertisement similar to the ones S.E. Gross made in the 1800s to promote moving to Brookfield.

- <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/16141365/chicago-tribune/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=426623917879941&set=a.213115202564148>

WATCH

Watch the history of Riverside Brookfield High School series made by RBTV on YouTube

- Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aoj6zeXyDHA>

Watch "Chicago by 'L'" on WTTW, which has images of historic Brookfield, or any of the Chicago history tour shows by Geoffrey Baer

- <https://video.wttw.com/show/geoffrey-baer-tours/>

RESEARCH & DO

Research the population of Brookfield and La Grange Park since 1900 and make a graph plotting the number of people in our community every 10 years. What decades had the most growth of people and what do you think caused the increase? When did your family move to the community?

- <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/brookfieldvillageillinois>

Interview someone who grew up in Brookfield or La Grange Park. Find out what it was like living here at different times. During the Depression? World War II? In the middle of the 20th Century? How was their life the same or different as yours is today?

- Learn about oral history projects like <https://storycorps.org/> or how communities can launch projects <https://diy.storycorps.org/our-courses/>
- How to interview someone for an oral history project <https://images.history.com/images/media/interactives/oralhistguidelines.pdf>

GET ACTIVE

Visit a local historical society or museums (when available)

- <http://www.brookfieldilhistory.org/>
- <https://www.lagrangehistory.org/>
- <https://westernspringshistory.org/>
- <https://www.riverside.il.us/419/Riverside-Historical-Commission>
- <http://www.northriverside-il.org/historical-society>
- <http://savetheprairiesociety.org/visiting-faq/>
- <http://www.grauemill.org/>
- <https://www.chicagohistory.org/>

Learn about the old trolley line that ran through Brookfield, then bike along its old route.

- Old photos <https://thetrolleydodger.com/2015/02/10/west-towns-streetcars-in-color/>
- Can you find evidence of the old bridge over the Salt Creek?
- Where did the trolley drop off passengers at the zoo?
- What is located at the spot where the trolley tracks met the Indiana Harbor Belt train tracks?

Looking for something else, different, or more? Ask your Camp Director (parents) or Counselor (other older youth or adults) to help you search on Pinterest (ex: bug craft, watercolor bug, bug books, etc.). Your Camp Director (i.e parent) would also be able to help you look up other resources, like Teachers Pay Teachers or AmazonSmile, for free or inexpensive resources or books or materials. Reminder: the BPC earns money on all eligible purchases through Amazon Smile.

Have ideas? Want to share? Post on the BPC Facebook page or email askthebpc@gmail.com.