

COMMUNITY HISTORY



Chicago History Time Line

The following pages are a time line of changes in Chicago. You can use them to develop social studies skills, such as identifying cause and effect. Here are some math and writing project ideas for the time line:

Writing Projects

- > Give one page to each student and have them develop **expository skills** as they write a **summary** of Chicago at that point in time.
- > Have students use **creative writing** to write a letter from Chicago describing the city.
- > Ask students to write a **narrative** of the history of one kind of change in Chicago, such as the building of the railroads.
- > Challenge students to choose what they think was the most important change in Chicago's history and then to write a **persuasive** essay supporting their choice.
- > Have students write Chicago history headlines to develop their ability to **summarize and write with expression**.

Math Projects

- > Ask students to make a **bar graph** of the changes in Chicago's population.
- > Have students **calculate** the number of telephones per person at different times in Chicago's history.
- > Challenge students to **figure the percentage** of change in the number of telephones in Chicago at different times.
- > Have students **make up contextual number problems** based on the information in the time line.

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CHICAGO TIME LINE--1800-1820 (asterisks note national/international items)

1790 - Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable comes to Chicago
1800 DuSable sells his property to Jean LaLime

- *1801 automation is invented in France
- *1803 Louisiana Purchase--for \$15 million, President Jefferson buys all the land between the Mississippi and Rockies (to Canadian border)
- 1803 There are 4 cabins, 1 owned by LeMai, a trader
U.S. army builds Fort Dearborn
- 1804 *-1806 Lewis and Clark explore the Northwest
John Kinzie buys LeMai's cabin to start a trading store
*first railroad locomotive runs in England
- 1805 Charles Jouett, first lawyer, comes from Virginia to be the first Indian agent
- 1806 At Kinzie's store, butter is 50¢ a lb., flour is 10¢ a lb.
*gas lighting is introduced in European cities
- 1807 prices at Kinzie's store: potatoes--62½¢ a bushel; corn--\$1.50-\$2.50 a bushel;
tea--40 shillings a pound
*Fulton's steamboat makes its first trip
*slave trade is abolished in the British Empire
- 1809 *John Jacob Astor organizes the American Fur Company
- 1812 *-1814, U.S. was at war with England
Alexander Robinson, a Pottawattomie, helps Kinzie family escape massacre
Indians burn Fort Dearborn
- 1816 David McKee comes to work as a government blacksmith
John Kinzie returns and gets involved in the fur trade
William Cox holds the first regular school
Fort Dearborn is rebuilt
Treaty between the U.S., the Ottawas, Chippewas, and Pottawattomies--
the U.S. gets much land, including most of what today is Chicago
*The single-wire telegraph is invented
- 1817 Jean Baptiste Beaubien comes to Chicago from Milwaukee to work in
the fur trade
Beaubien builds a "mansion"
- 1818 Nathaniel Pope, congressional delegate from Illinois Territory, gets
the border changed to include part of Wisconsin territory, including
Chicago, before Illinois is made a state
Illinois joins the union as a state

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- 1820 *Missouri Compromise forbids slavery north of 36°30'
- 1823 David McKee opens the first blacksmith shop in the area
the armed force leaves Fort Dearborn
- 1824 the Clybourne family moves to Chicago
workers survey five different routes for the building of a canal
to link Lake Michigan and the Illinois River; the canal would
make a waterway from Chicago to the Mississippi River
- 1825 John Kinzie is the first Justice of the Peace
Alexander Wolcott and Jean Beaubien also become Justices of the Peace
There are about 14 houses in Chicago
*The Erie Canal is finished
*the first bus--an omnibus pulled by horses--runs in France
- 1826 David McKee is the first regular mail carrier, with a route from
Chicago to Niles, Michigan, Elkhart, Indiana, and Fort Wayne,
Indiana once a month
Mark Beaubien comes to Chicago from Detroit; he buys a log house
from James Kinzie
35 people vote in the first election
*the first photograph is taken (in France)
- 1827 Clybourne builds a slaughterhouse on the North Branch of the river
the Sauganash Hotel is built
- 1828 the army force returns to the fort
- 1829 James Kinzie builds the city's first tavern--Wolf Tavern
Gurdon S. Hubbard buys two lots for \$66.66
- 1830 the first streets and lots are laid out
Dr. Elijah D. Harmon comes to the area--the first pioneer doctor
not attached to the fort
*railroad building boom in the U.S. begins
*there are 500,000 immigrants to the U.S. in the 1830's
*water wheels provided most power in the 1830's
*the first sewing machine is invented (in France)
*New York City gets the first city streetcar network
*the first horse-drawn bus in the U.S. runs in New York City
*the Indian Removal Bill authorizes moving Indians from the East
to west of the Mississippi River

CHICAGO TIME LINE--1831-1833 (p. 3)

- 1831 the population is 60
the first river bridge is built--across the South Branch where Lake and Randolph Streets are today; it cost \$286.20; the Pottawatomies paid \$200 of the cost of the bridge.
sailing ships traveled from New York City to Chicago in 25 days
boats that came to Chicago brought passengers and goods and took back little
a regular post office was set up; Jonathan Nash Bailey was postmaster
Beaubien built the first frame house in Chicago: the Sauganash Hotel
John Miller built the first tannery in Chicago
Cook County was organized
*Nat Turner led a slave uprising
- 1832 the population was 150
*the Treaty ending the Black Hawk War gave cash and goods to the Indians, who had to move west of the Mississippi River
a lighthouse is built
sawmills are built on Hickory Creek, including one by Gurdon Hubbard
- 1833 the population is about 350
Chicago is incorporated as a town of one square kilometer bordered by today's Kinzie, Madison, State, and Des Plaines Streets
people still are killing black bears near what today is the Loop
Tyler Blodget opens a brickyard on the North Side near the river
George Dole makes the first shipment of beef to the East--in barrels--he ships 287 barrels of beef, 14 barrels of tallow, 2 barrels of beeswax, and 152 dried animal hides
the first jail is built (of logs)
the first Chicago newspaper--the Chicago Democrat begins
David Carver, the first lumber merchant, comes and opens the first lumber yard
Eliza Chappel opens the first publicly funded school
Elson and Woodruff open a company for making soap and candles--they use a barn on Kinzie Street for their business
There are four blacksmith shops
four lake steamers enter the harbor during the year
a law is passed to stop river pollution

1834 the population is 1,800

lots of Lake Street sell for \$250

Briggs and Humphrey start a business to make wagons and carriages

Asabel Pierce, a blacksmith, makes a plow, which is the first farm tool manufactured in Chicago

Dr. John Temple begins a stage coach line

the S.S. Michigan, owned by Oliver Newberry of Detroit, is the first steamboat to travel on the river

Dr. William Kennicott opens the first dentist's office

John Beaubien brings the first piano to Chicago

Gurdon Hubbard builds the first warehouse (at LaSalle and S. Water Streets)--it is the first large brick building in Chicago

first drawbridge over the river is built--at Dearborn Street

the mail comes to Chicago once a week

1835 the population is 3,265

there are 100 merchants, 35 lawyers, 25 doctors

the Chicago Lyceum--the first library--opens

Gurdon Hubbard does a lot of meat packing--his company packs 3,500 hogs

Hubbard and two other entrepreneurs buy 80 acres of land for \$5,000; he sells about 40 acres of the land 3 months later in New York for \$80,000

the first regular fire department is organized; the first fire engine is bought for \$894.38 from Hubbard's company

the first foundry opens--Chicago Furnace, owned by Jones, King & Co.

Chicago's first bank opens--the Chicago branch of the State Bank of Illinois--at LaSalle and Water Streets; John Kinzie is the president

the first Chicago court house is built at Clark and Randolph Streets

1836 the population is 3,820

450 lake steamers enter the harbor this year

28,000 tons of goods are brought into Chicago--worth over \$3 million

German and Irish laborers come to work on building a new canal

first flour mill opens--owned by Lyman and Gage on the west bank of the river

Hubbard sells his trading business and opens a freight forwarding company

People complain about the ponds on LaSalle Street where many frogs live

the army leaves Fort Dearborn

1837 Chicago is incorporated as a city--the population is more than 4,170
The city is 10 square miles, between North Avenue, Lake Michigan,
22nd Street and Wood Street (which is 1800 west)

William Ogden, from New York, is the first mayor

there are: 4 warehouses, 398 homes, 29 dry-goods stores, 10 taverns,
26 groceries, 17 lawyer's offices, 5 churches

there is an economic panic because of a shortage of money, which
leads to five poor economic years when many go bankrupt

Charles Morgan started the first Chicago furniture factory

1838 the population is about 4,000

there is cholera among the workers on the Illinois and Michigan Canal,
the new canal that will link Lake Michigan with the Illinois River

the first shipment of grain is 78 bushels of wheat sent to Buffalo, N.Y.

the James Allen, the first steamer built in Chicago, is finished

S.B. Collins & Co. begins to manufacture boots and shoes

*Samuel Morse invents the Morse code

1839 the population is 4,200

William Ogden is reelected Mayor

the American is the first daily newspaper in the city

There are 7 cabinet makers and chair and furniture makers in the city
an iron foundry opens

William and John Rankin open a brass foundry

a regular steamship line runs between Chicago and Buffalo, making the
round trip in 16 days

the second shipment of grain--by Newberry and Dole--is 3,678 bushels

fire destroys the Tremont Hotel and 17 other buildings on Lake and
Dearborn streets

there is a business depression

Chicago business include: 2 candle and soap makers, 4 wagon and
carriage makers, 1 mill-stone factory, 1 flour mill, 3 tanners,
3 metal foundries, 2 brewers, 1 steam saw mill, 1 watch maker,
and 1 brick maker

*Charles Goodyear invents a way to vulcanize rubber

- 1840 the population is 4,470
8 firms make wagons and carriages
23 firms make furniture
397 pupils attend Chicago schools
225 sailing ships and 61 steamboats travel on Lake Erie, Lake Michigan,
and Lake Superior
a bridge is built at Clark Street
the Chicago Anti-Slavery Society meets for the first time
the Irish begin to settle in the Back of The Yards area
*There are 1½ million immigrants to the U.S. during the 1840's
- 1841 the population is 5,752
coal is shipped to Chicago for the first time--no one could use it until
new grates were made--fire places were set up to burn wood
212 bushels of wheat are shipped east from Chicago
the canal work stops temporarily; many contractors are ruined
the Wells Street bridge is built
Walter Newberry is elected President of the Young Men's Association; he
uses his books to start a library there, which is the city's first reading room
- 1842 the population is 6,248
Joseph Ryerson opens for business as a wholesale iron merchant
Chicago ships 586,907 bushels of wheat and 2,920 barrels of flour
there are 9 schools and 450 students
for the first time, Chicago exports more than it imports
- 1843 the population is 7,580
the first city hospital opens
work on the canal stops because the state needs money
so many firms go bankrupt that the District Court for Illinois has a
special session to handle the cases

goods exported (sent from Chicago): wheat, corn, oats, pork, lard,
beef, tallow, hides, tobacco, wool, lead, candles, soap, furs,
brooms, flour

good imported (brought to Chicago): merchandise, salt, whisky, lumber,
shingles, timber, bark, stoves

1844 the population is about 8,000

Lake Park is dedicated (later it becomes Grant Park)

42 ships are based in Chicago to provide for trade

*Samuel Morse builds the first telegraph line--from New York to Washington, D.C.

1845 the population is 12,088

the first 3-story building in Chicago is built

work on the canal begins again

73 ships are based in Chicago to provide for trade

Chicago Volksfreund--the first foreign language newspaper printed in Chicago

*potato blight begins in Ireland--it lasts from 1845-1847

1846 the population is 14,169

a group of Chicago citizens buy land for a railroad between Chicago and Galena

250 men work in the packing business

C.R. Vandercook and Joshua R. Shedd & Co. open a factory to make iron stoves

there is a special tax for street improvements

1847 the population is 16,859

McCormick opens a reaper factory on the site of DuSable's cabin

There are 5 bowling alleys

there are 6 foundries for iron making

about 1,400 pupils attend Chicago schools

Chicagoans send \$2,600 and supplies to Ireland for victims of famine

the Chicago Tribune prints its first paper

the first law school opens in Chicago

1848 the population is 20,023

the Illinois and Michigan Canal is finished--it is 96 miles from the South Branch of the Chicago River to the Illinois River--it links the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley

the first boat to use the canal arrives; the canal is 6 feet deep

Chicago's first railroad--Chicago and Galena Union Railroad--takes its first trip

the first railway depot--Chicago and Galena Union Railroad Depot--opens at Canal and Kinzie Streets

P.W. Gates and Hiram H. Scoville begin to manufacture railroad cards for the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad

Chicago ships these goods: 45,200 barrels of flour; 2,160,000 bushels of wheat; 550,460 bushels of corn

the first shipment of wheat to Chicago by rail comes on the Galena and Chicago railroad

the Chicago Board of Trade is founded

the first plank road is finished--10 miles long from Chicago to Riverside

Chicago begins to number the streets

telegraph connects Michigan City and Chicago--the first telegraph link to Chicago; the charges are: 25¢ for 10 words; 2¢ for each added word; 2¢ for delivery

from 1848-1855 there is a cholera epidemic, partly due to poor sanitary conditions (Chicago is very swampy in some places)

*the gold rush to California begins

*the St. Lawrence Seaway is opened

1849 Many Chicagoans leave for California

fire destroys the rebuilt Tremont Hotel and 19 other buildings

the government decides to plank the main city streets

*reinforced concrete is invented (by Joseph Monier, in France)

there is a big flood, and the Clark Street bridge is washed away by the rushing water and ice

30 people die of cholera

there is a bank panic

- 1850 population is 29,963
more than 50% of the population is foreign: 1,883 are from England and Wales; 6,096 from Ireland; 610 from Scotland; 5,094 from Germany; 234 from France; 2 from Spain; 4 from Italy; 1,759 from other countries
31 firms make wagons and carriages; 23 firms make furniture
the city is lighted with gas
the first omnibus line goes from downtown to Lincoln Park (horse-drawn)
the first permanent Hospital opens (Illinois General Hospital of the Lakes, later to become Mercy Hospital)
the Tremont Hotel is rebuilt of brick, not wood; it is 5½ stories high
*there are 2½ million immigrants to the U.S. during the 1850's
- 1851 fire destroys the Sauganash Hotel
*Singer patents the sewing machine
*refrigeration is developed to freeze meat on cargo ships
- 1852 five railroads serve the city
the "Union Car Works" is established on S. Clark Street
omnibuses--horse-drawn carriages--begin to run between railroad depots
*Uncle Tom's Cabin is published
- 1853 about 20 million bricks are made in Chicago; the population is 59,130
J.S. Wright begins to manufacture a self-raking reaper and mower
the first water works is built
the American Car Company makes 700 railroad cars, mostly for freight
*Gail Borden patents a way to can evaporated milk
Chicago has 7 public schools with 3,000 students--it needs more schools
- 1854 the Rock Island Railroad reaches Chicago--the first rail link between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes
Union Car Works builds 400 railroad cars
J.S. Wright's company produces 300 reapers
there are 5 brickyards in Chicago, making about 91 million bricks this year
R.G. Green opens the first Chicago musical instrument factory--making melodeons
1,424 people die of cholera due to swampy conditions and poor drainage

- 1855 96 trains come and go every day
the city begins to raise the street level to improve drainage
George Pullman comes to Chicago to work as an engineer and contractor--he demonstrated in 1854 how to raise buildings by raising the Tremont Hotel 8 feet with 500 men and 2,500 jackscrews
*the first artificial plastic--celluloid--is invented (in England)
- 1856 10 railroad lines serve the city; the population is 84,113
fire destroys the depots of the Michigan Southern and Rock Island railroads
the first wooden pavement is laid--on Wells Street, Lake to S. Water streets
there are 18 omnibus lines, which make more than 400 daily trips
there are 6 flour mills with a total of 73 workers
the Illinois Central Railroad is completed, linking Chicago to Cairo
Charles Hull builds a house at 800 S. Halsted, then a suburb of Chicago
the Chicago Historical Society is organized
Marshall Field moves to Chicago from Massachusetts
*Henry Bessemer patents a converter that will help make steel less costly
*the first artificial dye is made (by William Perkin, in England; it is mauve)
- 1857 Captain E.B. Ward opens the first rail mill in the city
the first publicly owned water works opens
Wright's firm makes 1,000 reapers
Briggs House, which is 5 stories high and weighs 22,000 tons, is raised 4½ feet and a new foundation is built for it
the Chicago Historical Society is incorporated
*the first public elevator is installed in New York (steam-powered)
James McVickers opens the McVickers Theater
- 1858 horse railroads are being built in the city
- 1859 horse-drawn cars on State Street (Randolph to Roosevelt) are the first city transit with set routes and schedules
*the first successful oil well in the U.S. is in Pennsylvania, but at first there is not much use for the oil
*meat packing is becoming a big business in the city

- 1860 the population is 112,172
 the city has: 18 furniture firms (with 212 workers); 4 farm tool firms (with 294 workers); 26 wagon and carriage firms (with 189 workers); 2 piano and organ firms (with 7 workers); 1 car wheel firm; 1 iron railing firm
 Abe Lincoln is nominated for President at the Republican National Convention meeting at the Wigwam, Lake and Wacker
 *Abe Lincoln is elected President
 *3/5ths of all workers in the United States are in farm work
 *Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin are the leading U.S. wheat producers
 *The average U.S. worker works about 11 hours a day
- 1861 the Board of Education stresses manners, morals, and natural science
 Camp Douglas is built to train soldiers for the Civil War
 *The Civil War lasts from 1861-1865; Chicago supplies goods to the Union army
- 1862 Camp Douglas is made a camp for prisoners from the Confederate army
 the population is 138,186
- 1863 *the first underground railway opens (in London)
- 1864 the population is 169,353
 Lincoln Park is founded
 George Pullman's firm makes the first new comfortable sleeping car
 4,793 Union army soldiers are treated in Chicago hospitals
- 1865 North Chicago Rolling Mills make the country's first steel rails
 Union Stock Yards begins to operate
 Levi Leiter and Marshall Field buy Potter Palmer's dry goods business
 Dr. Mary Harris Thompson opens a hospital to treat women and children
 *the Civil War ends
 *Lincoln is assassinated
 during 1865, 5,872 men from Cook County were in the Union army
 the O'Leary family moves to Chicago

- 1866 the population is 200,418
Charles Holmberg opens Northwestern Copper Works
there is a cholera epidemic
- 1867 a sanitary water system is set up
the LaSalle Street Station is finished--to serve the Rock Island,
Michigan Southern, and Northern Indiana railroads
Potter Palmer buys 3/4 of a mile along State Street
Armour opens a meat packing plant
*Christopher Sholes invents the typewriter
- 1868 McCormick's firm sells 10,000 reapers
fire destroys Hubbard's meat packing building
Republicans meet in Chicago and nominate U.S. Grant for President
New York's Central Park Zoo donates 2 swans to Chicago, and Lincoln
Park Zoo begins with this donation
the population is 252,054
- 1869 13,730 ships arrive in Chicago this year
the Pennsylvania Railroad reaches Chicago from the East
a tunnel at Washington Street under the South Branch of the Chicago
River is opened
the Water Tower is finished--it is the city's second water works
*the first transcontinental railroad is finished (it links the east
and west coasts of the United States)
*the Knights of Labor is formed as a union for workers
- 1870 the population is 298,977
Chicago has: 59 furniture firms (1,126 workers); 4 farm tool firms
(784 workers); 65 wagon and carriage firms (941 workers);
7 piano and organ firms (40 workers); 146 iron manufacturing firms
John Glessner moves to Chicago, where he will become head of International
Harvester
the Palmer House opens--it is a 225-room hotel
*the first U.S. subway opens (in New York)

- 1871 a tunnel is built at LaSalle Street under the river
the Chicago fire destroys much of the center city: it destroys Field and Leiter's firm, which loses \$3,500,000 in property; it destroys Gurdon Hubbard's business, the Tremont Hotel, newspaper offices, McCormick's reaper factory, and many many more buildings; about 300 people die in the fire and about 90,000 lose their homes
debris from the fire is dumped in the lake along Lake Park, which makes it a bigger places (it becomes Grant Park)
the McCormick company begins to rebuild a new factory on the west side of the river; James McVickers begins to rebuild his theater
- 1872 the population is 367,396
a new city law forbids wooden buildings in the downtown area
Aaron Montgomery Ward sends out the first mail-order catalog (1 page)
- 1873 Field and Leiter build a store on State Street
*There are 41 national craft unions for workers
*The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen is organized
*A.S. Hallidie invents the cable line car system (in San Francisco)
- 1874 the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad reaches Chicago
Lincoln Park Conservatory is opened
the Chicago Public Library opens--it has 17,355 books
*the first chain-driven bicycle is invented
- 1875 the city has been rebuilt--little remains to show there was a big fire in 1871
Philip Armour moves the headquarters of his meat firm to Chicago from Milwaukee
Donnelly, Lloyd Co. print books at prices the public can afford
- 1876 the population is 407,661
*Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone
- 1877 Chicago gets the telephone--4 are put into use here
the New York Central Railroad links Chicago and New York City
Field's State Street store burns--the firm loses \$725,000 in property
*Edison invents the phonograph
- 1878 Bell Telephone company begins here--there are 400 telephones
the population is 436,731
- 1879 the Art Institute is incorporated
*the light bulb is invented

1880 the population is 503,185

Chicago has: 198 furniture firms (5,431 workers); 8 farm tool firms (1,096 workers); 49 wagon and carriage firms (1,310 workers); 14 piano and organ firms (226 workers); 376 iron manufacturing firms; 24 bakeries and confectioneries (which make candies)

George Pullman builds a car shop for making sleeper cars

Pullman builds the first planned company town in the U.S., called Pullman, for workers at the car factory (it is in the town of Hyde Park)

*2½ million U.S. women are employed--they make up 15% of the workers in the country

*1 million boys and girls ages 10-15 have jobs in the United States

1881 Levi Leiter sells his share of the dry goods business to Marshall Field

*6 craft unions join as one union (which becomes the AFL in 1886)

*the first electric trolley runs (in Berlin, Germany)

1882 the population is 560,693

Chicago has 2,610 telephones (most are used in businesses, not in homes)

Chicago gets its first cable car line--on State Street--Madison to 21st Street

Norman Wait Harris founds a banking firm with \$30,000

Canal traffic is at its highest--it will drop off from now on

land on Lake Shore Drive is \$160 a foot

Potter Palmer builds a house at 1350 Lake Shore Drive

Julia Porter begins Children's Memorial Hospital, then known as the Maurice Porter Memorial Hospital, to serve children in memory of her son, who had died at 13 of rheumatism; during the 1880's, more than half of the people who died in Chicago were children under the age of 5

1883 1,142 flat buildings are built--Chicago's tenement problem begins

*the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen is organized

1884 the first central power plant for electricity in Chicago opens

Chicago ships the following goods: 4,888,884 barrels of flour;
21,046,555 bushels of wheat;
53,274,050 bushels of corn

*E. Waterman invents the fountain pen

the population of Chicago is 629,985

- 1885 the Home Insurance Building is built--the beginning of the building of skyscrapers--it has an iron and steel framework
*Karl Benz invents the automobile
- 1886 the population is 703,817
R.R. Donnelly & Sons prints the phone directory, which is 224 pages long (6" x 9")
the Haymarket riot in Chicago: workers striking for an 8 hour day at the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company have a meeting broken up there; the next day, there is a riot at Haymarket Square when workers meet to protest; 7 policemen and 4 workers are killed by a bomb explosion, and many are wounded; later, public reaction to the riot hurts the labor movement
*the processing of aluminum is developed
- 1887 Richard Sears starts a company in Chicago to sell watches and jewelry
the Chicago Edison company is set up to provide electricity
Frank Lloyd Wright works for the firm of Adler and Sullivan (until 1893)
- 1888 the population is 802,651
- 1888 electric company customers pay for electricity according to the number of light bulbs they have because there are no electricity meters
Sears sends out his first mail-order catalog
*George Eastman introduces the roll film and the box camera
- 1889 Chicago gets bigger--it annexes (takes over) these areas: Jefferson, Hyde Park, and parts of Lake, Lake View, and Cicero--it goes from 43 square miles in size to 168 square miles
Byron Laflin Smith founds the Northern Trust Company
Jane Addams, from Rockford, rents a few rooms in Hull House to live near the city's poor--she turns it into a settlement house to help the poor in this industrial area
- 1890 the population is 1,099,850
the city has: 157 furniture firms, 6 farm tool firms, 116 wagon and carriage firms, 17 piano and organ firms, 47 baking and confectionery firms
the city begins to build elevated train lines
the Chicago Shipbuilding Co. builds iron and steel ships
the Rand McNally Building is the first skyscraper constructed completely with steel
*the average work week is 6 days, 10 hours a day, in the United States

- 1891 the Monroe Cycle Company opens
the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is organized
- 1892 the population is 1,438,010
a phone line connects New York and Chicago
electric street cars begin to run in Chicago
the elevated railway begins to operate in Chicago--on the South Side
the Monroe Cycle Company makes 1,000 bicycles
land on Lake Shore Drive is \$800 a foot
N.W. Harris and Co. is worth \$525,000
there are 416 newspapers and magazines published in Chicago: 339 in English,
45 in German, 2 in French, 2 in Dutch, 6 in Bohemian, 1 in Italian,
6 in Polish, and 25 in Scandinavian languages
the city has 65 boot and shoe making firms
the L. Kiper & Sons saddlery moves to Chicago from Kansas
Chicago firms make 13,600 pianos and 55,000 organs
- 1893 the Monroe Cycle Co. makes 4,000 bicycles
the Village of Rogers Park is annexed by Chicago (taken over)
the Chicago Public Library has 189,350 books
the World's Columbian Exposition is held in Chicago
Joseph Block, an iron merchant from Cincinnati, comes to visit the Exposition
Joseph Block and 7 other entrepreneurs start Inland Steel
thousands ride the "L" from downtown to Jackson Park to the fairgrounds
the cable system has 86 miles of track in the city
there are more than 500 miles of electric trolley tracks in the city
"L" service begins on Lake Street, powered by steam engines
Marshall Field gives \$1 million to start a natural history museum with
some of the materials from the Columbian Exposition
- 1894 Eugene Debs leads a strike of the American Railway Union to support a
strike by workers at the Pullman Company; the strike spreads through
the midwest, but it fails to get the workers what they wanted (better
wages and conditions)
the population of Chicago has grown by more than 100,000 in just 3
years--it is 1,567,657

- 1895 in the Chicago area, there are 19 coke blast furnaces and 18 steel and iron manufacturing plants
electric powered engines begin to be used on the trains
the Lake Street transit line is electrified
the first white way street lighting in Chicago--on Clark Street
Ignaz Schwinn and Adolph Arnold start a bicycle manufacturing firm
*Americans buy 800,000 bicycles
- 1896 the city's first public swimming pool is opened at Douglas Park
*in the U.S. there are 36,000 locomotives in use
*Rudolf Diesel demonstrates a new kind of engine--the diesel engine
- 1897 the new "L" lines are completed, and they make a kind of circle in the downtown area that becomes known as the "Loop"
Inland Steel Co. produces 40,460 tons of steel this year
- 1898 *The Spanish-American War is fought
*Marconi demonstrates the use of radio (in England)
- 1899 a new department store in Chicago is designed by Louis Sullivan-- it was the Schlesinger & Mayer store; today it is the downtown building of Carson, Pirie Scott & Company

Work on the sanitary canal system is completed--it has been under construction since 1894. It will open for use in 1900. Part of this project includes the reverse of the flow of the Chicago River from flowing into Lake Michigan to flowing out of the Lake. With this change, polluted water will not flow into the lake. Instead canals will carry the water to water treatment plants. These canals also will help with shipping.

*Americans buy 1,182,850 bicycles

the Schwinn Bicycle Company is producing 25,000 bicycles a year

- 1900 Chicago has 26,667 telephones
the population is 1,698,575
the flow of the Chicago River is reversed to improve sanitation and shipping
--the sanitary canal system is opened--it was constructed from 1894-99
the Northwestern Elevated Railroad opens
*the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union is started
- 1901 about 300,000 Chicagoans live in tenements (poor housing)
*Marconi sends radio signals across the Atlantic Ocean for the first time
- 1902 Inland Steel opens a new plant at Indiana Harbor
the Lake Street "L" replaces steam engines with electric motors
McCormick Co. is merged with International Harvester
- 1903 there is a fire at the Iroquois Theatre--603 people die
Illinois passes a Child Labor Law--it says children can work only 8 hours a day
*the Wright brothers fly at Kitty Hawk--the first powered airplane
- 1904 Children's Memorial Hospital begins to build an addition on Fullerton Avenue
- 1905 the Industrial Workers of the World--an International Labor Union--is organized
Chicago has 100,000 telephones
the gasoline-powered tractor is used on some farms
- 1906 the last cable car train is put out of use, and horse cars no longer
will be used in the city for public transportation after this year
- 1907 the Marshall Field building replaces the store that Field and Leiter
built in 1878
Garfield Park and Conservatory are built
the Harris Bank has \$5.7 million in assets
*the first helicopter flight takes place
- 1908 Chicago has moving post offices in trolley cars
*Henry Ford's model T car is made on the first auto assembly line
- 1909 A house on Prairie Avenue that cost \$150,000 in 1870 is sold for \$36,000
Chicago has 200,000 telephones
Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett propose the Chicago Plan for the city
Ella Flagg Young is the first woman superintendent of Chicago's public schools

- 1910 Chicago has 239,083 telephones
There are about 12,000 automobiles in Chicago
the population is 2,185,283
the city adopts Burnham's Chicago Plan for its development
*the average work week in the U.S. is 55 hours
*2 million boys and girls ages 10-15 have jobs in the U.S.
- 1911 *Charles F. Kettering perfects the self-starter for automobiles, which
will mean the end of cranking the car engine
- 1912 Chicago has 300,000 telephones
- 1913 There are 18 different city transit companies, and each charges a different fare
*The U.S. Department of Labor is started
- 1914 work begins on the building of the Municipal Pier (to become Navy Pier)
*the first electric powered washing machines are built
*World War I begins in Europe
*the Panama Canal opens
the different Chicago transit companies are joined as one company, which
has about 3,500 street cars and more than 1,100 miles of track
- 1915 Chicago has 400,000 telephones
*Ford Motor Company begins to sell tractors
- 1916 the Municipal Pier (Navy Pier) is finished
Wieboldt's store is built at Lincoln-Belmont-Ashland avenues
- 1917 Inland Steel produces 1 million tons of steel
motor buses begin to run on Sheridan Road
*the United States enters World War I
*the federal government takes control of the railroads for the rest of the war
- 1918 *World War I ends
- 1919 there are race riots in Chicago
a nation-wide steel strike begins in Chicago
Chicago has 500,000 telephones

- 1920 Chicago has 575,840 telephones
the population is 2,701,705
the Michigan Avenue Bridge opens
*the 19th amendment gives women the right to vote
*1/4th of the workers in the U.S. work on farms
*8½ women are working--1/5th of the workers in the country are women
*regular radio broadcasts begin on a regular basis in the U.S.
- 1921 packinghouse workers strike
Inland Steel produces 400,000 tons of steel
Chicago's first radio station--KYW--begins
the Wrigley building is finished (it will be lighted as a landmark in 1924)
- 1922 *a depression hurts business during 1921-1922
- 1923 people begin to buy electric refrigerators for their homes
dial telephones begin to be installed in the city
- 1924 Chicago has 700,000 telephones
more than 30,000 people work in Chicago printing firms
Union Station is opened
*Clarence Birdseye introduces frozen foods for consumers
- 1925 Sears opens its first retail store--on the West Side
the South Water Street produce market is opened
*the flash bulb for photography is invented
Soldier Field is dedicated to soldiers from World War I
- 1926 Chicago has 800,000 telephones
Chicago has 341,000 automobiles
- 1927 Buckingham Fountain is built in memory of Clarence Buckin^gham
the Municipal Airport (to become Midway Airport) opens
*the first talking picture is made--the Jazz Singer
- 1928 buses carry Chicagoans on 146 miles of Chicago streets
*George Eastman shows the first color movie; Walt Disney makes the first Mickey Mouse cartoon
R.R. Donnelly is printing Time magazine; it gets the contract to print the Sears catalog, too

- 1929 *3.2% of the workers in the United States are unemployed
the Merchandise Mart is built--it is the world's largest building
LaSalle Street is widened; it is the center of Chicago's banking and trade activities
*The Stock Market crash begins the Depression
- 1930 *People have less money, so they eat less meat
Chicago meat-packing industry has fewer jobs
the Adler Planetarium--the first one in the U.S.--is built
on March 27, a blizzard ties up all transportation except for the "L," which carries 1,008,929 passengers to work
Chicago has 981,325 telephones
Chicago's population is 3,376,438
- 1931 Jane Addams wins the Nobel Peace Prize
the Schwinn bicycle company makes 20,739 bicycles
- 1932 235 air conditioners are installed--mostly in theaters and restaurants
the main Post Office is finished--it is the largest mail transfer site in the world--room was left for an expressway to run below it
700,000 Chicago workers are unemployed
100,000 Chicago families are on the "dole"--getting help with food and other basic needs
homeless Chicagoans built shacks in groups they called "Hoovervilles" after President Hoover, whom they blamed for the Depression
- 1933 Chicago has 799,122 telephones
*Franklin Roosevelt becomes President and starts the New Deal
*25% of the U.S. work force is unemployed
The Illinois Waterway is finished--it links Chicago to New Orleans
the Century of Progress--a 2nd Chicago World's Fair--opens--it will run through 1934
the Schwinn Bicycle Company makes 46,090 bicycles
- 1934 there is a big fire in the Stock Yards
the Schwinn Bicycle Company makes 86,986 bicycles
*nylon is patented