Transportation Changes and Chicago Choices, 1800–1932
Cambios en el Transporte y Decisiones de Chicago, 1800–1932

This project is part of City Centers in U.S. History, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, DePaul University, ©1984.

Some of the events take place in Chicago. Others take place in other locations but soon affect Chicago.

Algunos de los sucesos se realizan en Chicago. Otros suceden en otros lugares pero afectan a Chicago muy pronto.

Teachers can use this timeline to clarify for students how Chicago transportation has changed and to involve students in analyzing those changes—what caused them and how they affected living and working in Chicago. Then students can plan Chicago’s future transportation improvements.

⇒ Develop classification skills:

Make a chart showing changes in one kind of transportation such as land transportation.

⇒ Develop inferential reading skills:

Choose one change and tell:
  A. Why that change would have taken place
  B. What changes it might lead to in Chicago

⇒ Develop math skills:

Each student chooses two different changes.
Each writes a math "word problem" about those two changes.
Make it a multiple choice question.
Then combine the questions in a Chicago History Math Quiz.

⇒ Develop writing and art skills:

  A. Make a pictorial time line of one kind of transportation such as water transportation.
  B. Make a Chicago Transportation history textbook, complete with information, pictures you draw, and multiple choice questions you make up to test reading and math skills.
## CHICAGO TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>English Description</th>
<th>Spanish Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1804</td>
<td>The first railroad locomotive runs in England.</td>
<td>El primer ferrocarril empieza a funcionar en Inglaterra.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1807</td>
<td>Fulton’s steamboat makes its first trip.</td>
<td>El barco de vapor de Fulton realiza su primer viaje.</td>
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<td>1824</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Los trabajadores hacen estudios de cinco diferentes rutas para construir un canal que conecte el lago Michigan con el río Illinois; el canal crearía una ruta acuática desde Chicago hasta el río Mississippi.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1825</td>
<td>The Erie Canal is finished.</td>
<td>Terminan de construir el Canal Erie.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1826</td>
<td>The first bus, an omnibus pulled by horses, runs in France.</td>
<td>El primer autobús, un ómnibus jalado por caballos es utilizado en Francia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1830</td>
<td>The first streets and lots are laid out.</td>
<td>Las primeras calles y terrenos son establecidos.</td>
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<td>1831</td>
<td>The first river bridge is built across the south branch of the Chicago River where Lake and Randolph Streets are today; it cost $286.20. The Potawatomies paid $200 of the cost of the bridge.</td>
<td>El primer puente se construye sobre la parte sur del río de Chicago en donde actualmente se encuentran las calles de Lake y Randolph; costó $286.20. Los Potowatomies pagaron $200 del costo del puente.</td>
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<td>1833</td>
<td>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 barrels of dried animal hides.</td>
<td>George Dole realiza el primer embarque de carne en barriles hacia el este. Envía 287 barriles de carne, 14 de sebo, 2 de cera de abeja, y 152 de cueros secos de animales.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Four lake steamers enter the harbor during the year.</td>
<td>Cuatro barcos de vapor entran al puerto durante el año.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Briggs and Humphrey start a business</td>
<td>Briggs and Humphrey start a business making wagons and carriages. The mail comes to Chicago once a week.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>making wagons and carriages. The</td>
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<td>mail comes to Chicago once a week.</td>
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<td>1836</td>
<td>450 lake steamers enter the harbor this year, and 28,000 tons of goods worth over $3 million are brought into Chicago.</td>
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<td>1838</td>
<td>The first shipment of grain of 78 bushels of wheat is sent to Buffalo, New York. The James Allen, the first steamer built in Chicago, is finished.</td>
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<td>1839</td>
<td>A regular steamship line runs between Chicago and Buffalo, making the round trip in 16 days.</td>
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<td>1840</td>
<td>225 sailing ships and 61 steamboats travel on Lake Erie, Lake Michigan, and Lake Superior.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>Coal is shipped to Chicago for the first time. No one could use it until new grates were made and fireplaces were set up to burn wood. 212 bushels of wheat are shipped east from Chicago.</td>
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<td>1842</td>
<td>Chicago ships 586,907 bushels of wheat and 2,920 barrels of flour. For the first time, Chicago exports more than it imports.</td>
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<td>1843</td>
<td>Work on the canal stops because the state needs money. Goods exported (sent from Chicago) included wheat, corn, oats, pork, lard, beef, tallow, hides, tobacco, wool, lead, candles, soap, furs, brooms, and flour. Goods imported (brought to Chicago) included merchandise, salt, whiskey, lumber, shingles, timber, bark, and stoves.</td>
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<td>1845</td>
<td>Work on the canal begins again.</td>
<td>El trabajo en el canal se reanuda.</td>
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<td>1846</td>
<td>A group of Chicago citizens buys land for railroad between Chicago and Galena.</td>
<td>Un grupo de ciudadanos de Chicago compra terrenos para un ferrocarril entre Chicago y Galena.</td>
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<td>1848</td>
<td>The Illinois and Michigan Canal is finished. It is 96 miles from the south branch of the Chicago River to the Illinois River and it links the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley. The first boat to use the canal arrives; the canal is six feet deep. Chicago's first railroad, the Chicago and Galena Union Railroad Depot, opens at Canal and Kinzie Streets. The following goods are shipped out of Chicago: 45,200 barrels of flour, 2,160,000 bushels of wheat, and 550,460 bushels of corn. The first shipment of wheat to Chicago by rail comes on the Galena and Chicago Railroad. The first plank road is finished: it is ten miles long from Chicago to Riverside.</td>
<td>Se termina el Canal de Illinois y Michigan. Tiene una longitud de 96 millas de la sucursal del sur del Río de Chicago al Río de Illinois y une los Grandes Lagos y el Valle Mississippi. Llega el primer barco en utilizar el canal; el canal tiene seis pies de profundidad. El primer ferrocarril de Chicago, el Chicago and Galena Union Railroad Depot, abre en las calles Canal y Kinzie. Los siguientes artículos se envían desde Chicago: 45,200 barriles de harina, 2,160,000 medidas de áridos de trigo, y 550,460 medidas de áridos de maíz. El primer envío de trigo a Chicago por ferrocarril llega en el Ferrocarril de Chicago y Galena. El primer camino de tablón se termina: cubre diez millas de Chicago a Riverside.</td>
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<td>1849</td>
<td>The government decides to plank the main city streets.</td>
<td>El gobierno decide colocar tablón en las calles principales de la ciudad.</td>
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<td>1852</td>
<td>Five railroads serve the city. Omnibuses and horse-drawn carriages begin to run between railroad depots.</td>
<td>Cinco ferrocarriles sirven a la ciudad. El ómnibus y carruajes jalados por caballos comienzan a utilizarse entre las estaciones de ferrocarril.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>The Rock Island Railroad reaches Chicago: it is the first rail link between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes.</td>
<td>El ferrocarril Rock Island Railroad llega a Chicago: es el primer riel en unir al Río Mississippi y los Grandes Lagos.</td>
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<td>1855</td>
<td>Ninety-six trains come and go every day in Chicago.</td>
<td>Noventa y seis trenes van y vienen cada día en Chicago.</td>
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<td>1856</td>
<td>Ten railroad lines serve the city.</td>
<td>Diez líneas de ferrocarril sirven a la ciudad.</td>
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<td>1857</td>
<td>There are 18 omnibus lines, which make more than 400 daily trips.</td>
<td>Hay 18 líneas de ómnibus, las cuales realizan más de 400 viajes diarios.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>The Illinois Central Railroad is completed, linking Chicago to Cairo.</td>
<td>El Ferrocarril Central de Illinois es completado, uniendo Chicago y Cairo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>Horse railroads are being built in the city.</td>
<td>Ferrocarriles de caballos empiezan a ser construidos en la ciudad.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>Horse-drawn cars on State Street (from Randolph to Roosevelt) are the first city transit with set routes and schedules.</td>
<td>Carros jalados por caballos en la calle State (de Randolph a Roosevelt) es el primer tránsito en la ciudad con rutas y horarios definidos.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>The Pennsylvania Railroad reaches Chicago from the East.</td>
<td>El Ferrocarril de Pennsylvania llega a Chicago desde el Este.</td>
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<td>1869</td>
<td>A tunnel at Washington Street under the south branch of the Chicago River is opened.</td>
<td>Se abre un túnel en la calle Washington debajo de la estación sur del Río de Chicago.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>The first transcontinental railroad is finished (it links the east and west coasts of the United States).</td>
<td>Se termina de construir el primer ferrocarril transcontinental (une las costas este-oeste en Estados Unidos).</td>
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<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>A tunnel is built at LaSalle Street under the river.</td>
<td>En la calle LaSalle se construye un túnel debajo del río.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad reaches Chicago.</td>
<td>El Ferrocarril Baltimore y Ohio llega a Chicago.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Chicago gets its first cable car line on State Street, from Madison to 21st.</td>
<td>Chicago obtiene su primer línea de carros de cable en la calle State, de Madison a la 21.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Canal traffic is at its highest; it will drop off from now on.</td>
<td>El tráfico en el Canal llega a su máximo; caerá de ahora en adelante.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>The following goods are shipped out of Chicago: 4,888,884 barrels of flour; 21,046,555 bushels of wheat; and 53,274,050 bushels of corn.</td>
<td>Los siguientes productos se envían desde Chicago: 4,888,884 barriles de harina; 21,046,555 medidas de áridos de trigo; y 53,274,050 medidas de áridos de maíz.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>The city begins to build elevated train lines.</td>
<td>La ciudad empieza a construir líneas del tren elevado.</td>
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<td>1890</td>
<td>The Chicago Shipbuilding Company builds iron and steel ships.</td>
<td>La Compañía Constructora de Barcos construye barcos de hierro y acero.</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Thousands ride the “L” from downtown to Jackson Park to the fairgrounds of the World’s Columbian Exposition (also called the Chicago World’s Fair). 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.</td>
<td>Miles utilizan el tren elevado (L) desde el centro hacia Jackson Park a los parques de la Exposición Mundial de Columbia (también conocido como la Feria Mundial de Chicago). El sistema de cable tiene 86 millas de rieles en la ciudad. Hay más de 500 millas de carros electrónicos en la ciudad. El tren L comienza en la calle Lake utilizando máquinas de vapor.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Electric powered engines begin to be used on the trains. The Lake Street transit line is electrified.</td>
<td>Máquinas eléctricas empiezan a ser utilizadas para mover los trenes. La línea de tránsito de la calle Lake empieza a utilizar electricidad.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>The new “L” lines are completed, and they make a kind of circle in the downtown area that becomes known as the “Loop”.</td>
<td>Se completan las nuevas líneas del tren L y hacen un tipo de círculo en el centro de la ciudad que es conocido como el “Loop”.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Se revierte el flujo del Río de Chicago para mejorar la salubridad y el embarque. Se abre el canal de salubridad: fue construido de 1894-99. Abre el Ferrocarril Elevado del Noroeste.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>The Lake Street “L” replaces steam engines with electric motors.</td>
<td>El tren L en Lake reemplaza máquinas de vapor con motores eléctricos.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Deja de utilizarse el último tren de cable y los carros jalados por caballos ya no serán utilizados como transporte público después de este año.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Chicago has moving post offices in trolley cars.</td>
<td>Chicago tiene oficinas postales móviles en vagones de trenes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>There are about 12,000 automobiles in Chicago.</td>
<td>Hay alrededor de 12,000 automóviles en Chicago.</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>There are 18 different city transit companies, and each one charges a different fare.</td>
<td>Hay 18 diferentes compañías de tránsito en la ciudad, y cada una cobra una tarifa diferente.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>The different Chicago transit companies are joined as one company, which has about 3,500 streetcars and more than 1,100 miles of track.</td>
<td>Las diferentes compañías de tránsito en Chicago se unen como una sola, la cual tiene 3,500 vagones y más de 1,100 millas de rieles.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Motorbuses begin to run on Sheridan Road.</td>
<td>Autobuses de motor empiezan a funcionar en Sheridan Road.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Union Station is opened.</td>
<td>Abre Union Station.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Chicago has 341,000 automobiles.</td>
<td>Chicago tiene 341,000 automóviles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Buses carry Chicagoans on 146 miles of Chicago streets.</td>
<td>Camiones llevan a ciudadanos de Chicago en 146 millas de calles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>LaSalle Street is widened; it is the center of Chicago’s banking and trade activities.</td>
<td>La calle LaSalle se vuelve más ancha; es el centro comercial y bancario de Chicago.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>On March 27, a blizzard ties up all transportation except for the “L”, which carries 1,008,929 passengers to work.</td>
<td>El 27 de Marzo una tormenta detiene a todo el transporte con excepción del tren L que lleva a 1,008,929 pasajeros al trabajo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Se termina de construir la Oficina Postal principal. Es el sitio de transferencia más grande en el mundo. Se dejó espacio para que una carretera circule por debajo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What is next?**

**Your turn!**

- Find out more transportation changes.
- Then tell how each one affects Chicago.