

CHICAGO'S HISTORY: CHOICES AND CHANGES

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For every event, figure out what choices led to the change.

National and international events affecting Chicago are included in italics. Figure out the Connections!

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.

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 Theater--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 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 Chicago has 200,000 telephones.

Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett propose a 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

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.

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.

1/5th of the workers in the country are women.

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.

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 Buckinham.

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 The Schwinn Bicycle Company makes 86,986 bicycles.

Nylon is patented.

What happened next?

Find information about Chicago changes.

Think about the choices people made that brought about those changes.

Look for information on changes in this country and in the world that affected Chicago.

Look in history books, biographies, and encyclopedias.

Look for inventions.

For example, when was the computer invented?

Look for changes in society.

For example, when did the Civil Rights movement start?