

CHICAGO'S HISTORY

A Timeline of CHOICES AND CHANGES

DePaul University Center for Urban Education
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Each of the items on this time line represents a change.

Each of the items also represents choices.

Ask students to identify:

- choices that would have led to these changes
- outcomes of these changes.

The time line is set up in sections so that students can focus on different time periods. Students also can analyze areas such as transportation, housing, and communication across decades of Chicago history.

Students can use math skills, writing skills, and art skills to interpret and then expand on this time line.

Your students can use the resources listed at the end of the timeline to complete it through the current year. They will be making evaluative choices when they do that—which events belong on the timeline—and why are they important to Chicago history?

Your students can take the time line into the future, too. They can project the choices and changes in the next decades.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1800-1827

- 1800 > Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable sells his property to Jean La Lime.
- 1803 > U.S. Army builds Fort Dearborn. There are 4 cabins, 1 owned by LeMai, a trader.
- 1804-1806 > Lewis and Clark explore the Northwest.
> John Kinzie buys LeMai's cabin to start a trading store.
- 1805 > Charles Jouett, first lawyer, comes from Virginia to be the first Indian agent.
- 1806 > At Kinzie's store, butter is 50 cents a pound, flour is 10 cents a pound.
- 1807 > Prices at Kinzie's store: potatoes—62½ cents a bushel; corn—\$1.50-\$2.50 a bushel; tea—40 shillings a pound.
- 1812-1814 > Indians burn Fort Dearborn. Alexander Robinson, a Pottawatomi, helps Kinzie family escape massacre.
- 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 Pottawatomies—the U.S. gets much land, including most of what today is Chicago.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 1827 > Clybourne builds a slaughterhouse on the North Branch of the river.
> The Sauganash Hotel is built.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1828-1833

- 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.
- 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.
- 1832 >The population was 150.
>A lighthouse is built.
>Sawmills are built on Hickory Creek, including one by Gurdon Hubbard.
- 1833 >The population is 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 Blodgett 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 Chappell 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.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1834-1837

- 1834
- >The population is 1,800.
 - >Lots on 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.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1838-1842

- 1838
- >The population is about 4,000.
 - >There is cholera among 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 steamer built in Chicago, is finished.
 - >S.B. Collins & Co. begins to manufacture boots and shoes.
- 1839
- >The population is 4,200.
 - >William Ogden is re-elected 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 roundtrip 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 businesses 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 mill, 1 watchmaker, and 1 brick maker.
- 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.
- 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.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1843-1847

- 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 of Illinois has a special session to handle the case.
 - >Goods exported (sent from Chicago): wheat, corn, oats, pork, lard, beef, tallow, hides, tobacco, wool, lead, candles, soap, furs, brooms, flour.
 - >Goods imported (brought to Chicago): merchandise, salt, whiskey, 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.
- 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.
- 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 du Sable'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 move up one victims of famine.
 - >*The Chicago Tribune* prints its first paper.
 - >The first law school opens in Chicago.
 - >The first synagogue in Chicago is opened.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1848-1852

- 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 cars 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 cents for 10 words; 2 cents for each added word; 2 cents for delivery.
 - >From 1848-1855 there is a cholera epidemic, partly due to poor sanitary conditions (Chicago is very swampy in some places).
- 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.
 - >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
- >The population is 29,963
 - >More than 50% of the population is foreign: 1,883 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.
- 1851
- >Fire destroys the Sauganash Hotel.
 - >The Illinois State Legislature approves Northwestern's Act of Incorporation, granting 36 trustees the power to administer the University's business affairs, organize a faculty, adopt by-laws, and grant degrees.
- 1852
- >Five railroads serve the city.
 - >The "Union Car Works" is established on S. Clark Street.
 - >Omnibus—horse-drawn carriages—to run between railroad depots.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1853-1860

- 1853
- >The population is 59,130.
 - >About 20 million bricks are made in Chicago
 - >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.
 - >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.
- 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.
- 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 4 and a half feet and a new foundation is built for it.
 - >The Chicago Historical Society is incorporated.
 - >James McVickers opens the McVickers Theater.
- 1858
- >Horse railroads are being built in the city.
 - >The first YMCA opens in the city.
- 1859
- >Horse-drawn cars on State Street (Randolph to Roosevelt) are the first city transit with set routes and schedules.
- 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.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1861-1870

- 1861 >The Board of Education stresses manners, morals, and natural science.
>Camp Douglas is built to train soldiers for the Civil War.
- 1862 >The population is 138,186.
>Camp Douglas is made a camp for prisoners from the Confederate Fat.
- 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.
>During 1865, 5872 men from Cook County were in the Union Army.
>The O'Leary family moves to Chicago.
- 1866 >The population is 200,419.
>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 $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile along State Street.
>Armour opens a meat packing plant.
- 1868 >McCormick's firm sells 10,000 reapers.
>Fire destroys Hubbard's meat packing building.
>Republicans meet in Chicago and nominate Ulysses 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. Later, during the Chicago Fire, it proves to be a useful escape route.
>The Water Tower is finished—it is the city's second water works.
- 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 J. Glessner moves to Chicago, where he will become head of International Harvester.
>The Palmer House opens—it is a 225-room hotel.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1871-1881

- 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 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 place (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.
- 1874
- >The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad reach Chicago.
 - >Lincoln Park Conservatory is opened.
 - >The Chicago Public Library opens—it has 17,355 books.
 - >Alice Putnam begins the first kindergarten study club. Eight hundred kindergarten teachers are trained by her organization over the next 30 years, and they lead the way in establishing free kindergartens for children of the poor.
- 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.
- 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.
- 1878
- >The population is 436,731.
 - >Bell Telephone Company begins here—there are 400 telephones.
- 1879
- The Art Institute is incorporated.
- 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 (in the town of Hyde Park).
- 1881
- >Levi Leiter sells his share of the dry goods business to Marshall Field.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1882-1889

- 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.
- 1884
- >The population of Chicago is 629,985.
 - >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.
- 1885
- >The Home Insurance Building is built—the beginning of the building of skyscrapers—it has an iron and steel framework.
- 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.
- 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.
 - >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.
- 1889
- >Chicago gets bigger—it annexes (takes over) these areas: Jefferson, Hyde Park, and parts of Lake, Lakeview, 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.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1890-1895

- 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.
- 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.
 - >The University of Chicago opens, aiming to be a “community of great scholars.” It accepts both men and women.
- 1893
- >The Monroe Cycle Co. makes 4,000 bicycles.
 - >The Village of Rogers Park is annexed (taken over) by Chicago.
 - >The Chicago Public Library has 189,350 books.
 - >The World’s Columbian Exposition is held in Chicago.
 - >Joseph Black, an iron merchant from Cincinnati, comes to visit the Exposition; shortly thereafter, Joseph Black 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 V. 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.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1896-1909

- 1896
- >The city's first public swimming pool is opened at Douglas Park.
 - >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.
- 1899
- >A new department store in Chicago is designed by Louis Sullivan—it was the Schlesinger & Mayer store.
 - >Cook County establishes the first ever juvenile court, to work with troubled youths.
 - >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.
 - >470,000 Chicagoans — one out of every four residents — had either been born in Germany or had a parent born there.
- 1901
- >About 300,000 Chicagoans live in tenements (poor housing).
- 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.
- 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. The tunnels under the Chicago River stop being used.
 - >The Meat Inspection Act is passed after Upton Sinclair's book The Jungle, about the Chicago Stockyards, is published.
- 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.
- 1908
- >Chicago has moving post offices in trolley cars.
- 1909
- >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 school.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1910-1926

- 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.
- 1912
- >Chicago has 300,000 telephones.
 - >The Chicago Public Schools adopts a new philosophy and introduces a differentiated curriculum. 6th graders choose between an academic and an industrial track.
- 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 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.
- 1916
- >The Municipal Pier (Navy Pier) is finished.
 - >Wieboldt's store is built at Lincoln-Belmont-Ashland avenues.
 - >Cook County Hospital opens.
- 1917
- >Inland Steel produces 1 million tons of steel.
 - >Motor buses begin to run on Sheridan Road.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1927-1934

- 1927
- >Buckingham Fountain is built in memory of Clarence Buckingham.
 - >The Municipal Airport (to become Midway Airport) opens.
- 1928
- >Buses carry Chicagoans on 146 miles of Chicago streets.
 - >R.R. Donnelly is printing *Time* magazine; it gets the contract to print the Sears catalog, too.
- 1929
- >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.
- 1930
- >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.
 - >The giant Sears, Roebuck, & Co. leaps into the insurance business with the creation of Allstate Insurance Company, based on the novel idea of selling auto insurance policies by mail order.
- 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.
 - >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.
 - >Museum of Science and Industry opens.
 - >The 22 different agencies that deal with public park space are combined to make the Chicago Park District.
- 1934
- >There is a big fire in the Stock Yards.
 - >The Schwinn Bicycle Company makes 86,986 bicycles.
 - >Brookfield Zoo opens.
 - >The Liquor Control Act prohibits alcohol sales on Sundays unless allowed by local government.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1935-1941

- 1935
- >Jane Addams, founder of Hull House, dies.
 - >Inland Steel Company has an annual output of two million tons.
 - >A law is enacted that specifies that employees receive a day of rest each week and advance notice when required to work on Sundays.
 - >The first baccalaureate degree program in nursing is initiated at Loyola University in Chicago.
 - >The Social Security Act of 1935 mandates unemployment insurance.
- 1936
- >Congress enhances its commodity market regulation with the Commodity Exchange Act of 1936, more closely regulating Chicago's markets.
 - >The amount of grain received in the city declines to a level unprecedented since the 1870s.
 - >The Park District publishes its plan for the 22 miles of lakefront property.
 - >Franklin Delano Roosevelt accepts the nomination for President in Chicago.
 - >Mexican and Mexican-American laborers suffer disproportionately from the lack of jobs due to the Depression.
- 1937
- >The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) is founded.
 - >Galvin Manufacturing, later to become Motorola, starts making radios to be used in private houses.
 - >120,000 people come to a high school football game at Soldier Field, the highest number ever.
- 1938
- >The Chicago River lock and controlling works and the South Water Filtration Plant are completed.
 - >Chicago's Mexican-American community is 16,000.
 - >The Jane Addams Houses, Julia C. Lathrop Homes, and Trumbull Park Homes are opened by the CHA, primarily for Caucasian families.
 - >The Ida B. Wells homes are opened by the CHA, primarily for African American families.
 - >The 8 hour work day becomes law.
- 1939
- >Major League Baseball games start being played at night, giving day laborers more of chance to watch the games.
 - >Allstate is the first insurance company to charge different rates depending on a car's owners, make, mileage, or age. They also encourage safer driving with rate reductions for good drivers.
 - >Women earn the right to sit on juries.
- 1940
- >The Armour Institute of Technology and Lewis Institute merge and join together as Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT).
 - >An African American police officer is promoted to the rank of Captain for the first time in Chicago.
 - >Chicago has more than 1,000,000 telephones.
 - >Chicago's population is 3,396,808.
- 1941
- >The South Side Community Art Center is dedicated by Eleanor Roosevelt. It aims to make art and culture available to minorities and to provide jobs.
 - >The state legislature creates the Medical Center District, composed of the university's health colleges and hospital.
 - >Chicago Municipal Airport (later Midway) adds runways, for a total of 16.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1942-1949

- 1942
- >Enrico Fermi and his team isolate the element plutonium at the University of Chicago. They will now be able to make a nuclear bomb.
 - >Black and white activists from the Christian pacifist movement create the Chicago Committee of Racial Equality, the first chapter of CORE.
 - >Some second generation Japanese Americans are released from internment camps and allowed to settle in Chicago.
 - >There are 264 Catholic primary schools and 59 Catholic secondary schools.
 - >The United Steelworkers of America (USWA) union is formed.
- 1943
- >With funding from the Public Works Administration, Chicago's first subway, the State Street Subway, opens.
 - >The Chicago Board of Education starts Chicago's first public radio station – WBEZ.
 - >The Mexican Civic Committee is founded to help and assist Mexican American communities in Chicago.
- 1944
- >Both the Democratic and Republican nominees for President (F. D. Roosevelt and Thomas E. Dewey) are nominated in Chicago.
- 1945
- >*Ebony*, the world's leading black magazine, is founded. It is designed to counteract negative black stereotypes prominent in white publications.
 - >Professors from Chicago's Central YMCA College found Roosevelt University in order to protest against racial quotas.
 - >The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) is created.
 - >There are over 9,000 Catholic sisters living in convents belonging to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago.
- 1946
- >Demand for higher education after the war leads the University of Illinois to open a two-year program at Navy Pier.
 - >Using sit-ins and other civil disobedience for one of the first times, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) desegregates White City Roller Rink.
- 1947
- >Herold Hunt becomes the superintendent of the Chicago Public Schools. He will oversee a period of major growth in the public school system.
 - >Larry Doby of the Cleveland Indians becomes the first African American to play in the American League, debuting at Comiskey Park.
 - >The Galvin Manufacturing Co., famous for being the first to make walkie-talkies, changes its name to Motorola Inc. and stays based in Chicago.
 - >Peak employment in Chicago manufacturing.
- 1948
- >The Chicago Sun-Times is printed for the first time.
 - >The WGN television station starts broadcasting.
 - >Meigs Field Commuter Airport opens in Chicago.
 - >The United Packinghouse Workers of America (UWPA) Union fails, in a strike, to shut down the meat packing industry.
 - >The CHA creates the Chicago Dwellings Association. It is a private corporation
 - >that will construct housing for moderate-income families.
- 1949
- >Chicago Municipal Airport is renamed Midway Airport.
 - >\$2 billion is spent on highway construction.
 - >Different Chicago-based electronics companies hire 40,000 Chicagoans. They manufacture 40% of the nation's televisions.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1950-1957

- 1950
- >Chicago's population is 3,620,962.
 - >Over 7 million people visit Illinois State Parks this year.
 - >Gwendolyn Brooks wins the Pulitzer Prize for her book Annie Allen.
 - >Chicago has 84 hospitals, both public and private.
- 1951
- >The famous architect Mies van der Rohe designs the 860 Lake Shore Drive apartments. With their glass and steel walls, they set the modernist agenda in architecture for the next twenty years.
 - >The Cicero riot lasts several nights and involves roughly two to five thousand white protesters. It attracts worldwide condemnation.
 - >The School of Nursing opens at UIC.
 - >A second subway line, under Dearborn Street, is completed.
 - >The St. Lawrence Seaway plans are approved. Ships will be able to travel from the mouth of the St. Lawrence River via the Great Lakes to Chicago.
- 1952
- >641 million passenger trips are taken on buses or streetcars in this year.
- 1953
- >The Chicago Dwellings Association builds Midway Gardens, a public housing facility at 60th and Cottage Grove.
 - >There are 765,000 cars in Chicago.
 - >The Illinois Toll Highway Commission is founded and turns some of the highways around Chicago into Toll Roads.
 - >Many of the streets in the Loop officially become one-way streets.
 - >Brookfield Zoo opens a Children's Zoo.
- 1954
- >The Lyric Opera of Chicago is founded.
 - >Chicago area Muslims build Chicago's first mosque.
 - >The Washington Street Tunnel closes.
- 1955
- >Ray Kroc opens the first McDonald's franchise in Chicago.
 - >WTTW does its first broadcast.
 - >The first section of the Congress Expressway (Eisenhower) is opened.
 - >Mayor Richard J. Daley (the father of the current mayor) is elected mayor.
 - >The School Board starts a process of asking job applicants if they are Communists and denies some jobs based on political assumptions.
- 1956
- >*The Defender* becomes a daily Chicago paper.
 - >National Tea, a big Chicago grocery chain, is bought by a Canadian company when sales top \$600 million.
 - >Montgomery Ward, one of the first mail order businesses in the country, has sales of over \$1 billion.
 - >WTTW starts to broadcast the Chicago Sunday Evening Club, a weekly discussion or lecture on religion at Orchestra Hall.
- 1957
- >The Old Town School of Folk Music opens as the first music program focused primarily on folk music and instruments.
 - >Borg-Warner Corporation, one of the biggest auto parts makers in the country, makes sales of over \$600 million.
 - >The Chicago, Aurora & Elgin Railway stops operating.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1958-1963

- 1958
- >The last streetcar in the city runs.
 - >The Inland Steel Company building is opened. It is built in the modernist theme that was started by Van der Rohe in 1951.
 - >A forest preserve is established in Lake County.
- 1959
- >Chicago International Trade Fair takes place at Navy Pier to celebrate the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.
 - >Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip of England visit Chicago. They sail down the new seaway in the Britannia royal yacht. It is the first time in history that a reigning British monarch visits Chicago.
 - >Second City Theater opens in Chicago.
 - >The Chicago Park District takes over children's playgrounds. They begin to be managed like other city parks.
 - >Lincoln Park Zoo opens the first year round children's zoo.
 - >Midway Airport has 10 million passengers travel through it.
- 1960
- >The Northwest Expressway (or Kennedy) is completed and opens for use.
 - >The Chicago Police Department has 10,535 employees.
 - >Archdiocese prohibits racial segregation in its schools.
 - >The number of Mexican American in Chicago is nearly 56,000. Immigrants from other Spanish-speaking countries also make the Latino community more diverse.
 - >800,000 African Americans live in Chicago now and the school system is increasingly segregated.
 - >90,000 citizens of Polish descent live in Chicago.
 - >Chicago's population is 3,550,404.
 - >Republicans make a convention appearance in Chicago, nominating Vice President Richard M. Nixon.
 - >Chicago mayor Richard J. Daley's helps swing the election to John F. Kennedy.
- 1961
- >The Ebony Museum of Negro History and Art (DuSable Museum of African American History) is established.
 - >University of Illinois at Chicago selects land at Harrison and Halsted as a new site for the university. There is neighborhood opposition.
 - >Chicago Teacher's College-North opens to address the need for new teachers. It will later be renamed Northeastern Illinois University.
- 1962
- >The Dan Ryan Expressway is opened.
 - >The largest public housing project in the country, the Robert Taylor Homes, is built.
 - >Vee-Jay Records, a Chicago recording company, releases records by The Beatles and the Four Seasons.
- 1963
- >O'Hare Airport opens. It is named after World War II hero Lt. Comdr. Edward O'Hare.
 - >The last parts of the Sunday Laws are repealed so that people can drink and keep their businesses open on Sundays.
 - >The CTA lines to O'Hare, Midway, and in the median of the Dan Ryan are laid down.
 - >Chicagoan Esther Saperstein introduces a bill to the State Legislature to hold a Commission on the Status of Women.
 - >By 1963, 50,000 families have been moved because of "urban renewal" projects – or public efforts to revitalize aging and decaying inner cities.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1964-1970

- 1964
- >The Southwest Expressway (Adlai E. Stevenson) is completed.
 - >The court system is organized into its current system of circuit courts so that there is no more overlap of districts and judges.
 - >The Federal Center building begins construction in the Loop.
 - >A school boycott where 400,000 students stay home from school is held to protest the Board of Education and its unequal schooling opportunities.
 - >The Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is created.
- 1965
- >The University of Illinois opens its Chicago Circle, or East, Campus.
 - >The Coordinating Council of Community Organizations joins Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference to start the Chicago Freedom Movement.
 - >The building where the first Chicago Post Office was is demolished.
 - >A network of publicly funded legal aid offices opens around the city.
 - >A stamp costs 5 cents.
- 1966
- >Martin Luther King Jr. marches in Chicago.
 - >The Chicago Teacher's Union is founded.
 - >The first annual Puerto Rican Day Parade is held on Division Street.
 - >The Chicago Bulls franchise comes to Chicago.
- 1967
- >The Museum of Contemporary Art is founded.
 - >Chicago has a professional soccer team for the first time – The Chicago Sting.
 - >Pablo Picasso is commissioned to make a piece for Daley Plaza.
 - >The Chicago Parent-Child Project partners with the federal government to provide educational opportunities to children ages three to seven.
- 1968
- >The Democratic National Convention is held in Chicago. There are major riots protesting both national and local politics.
 - >Bilingual education starts. If 20 or more students at one school speak the same language, they should be able to be taught in their native language.
 - >There are 295 banks in Chicago. They hold 45% of all the deposits in Illinois.
 - >Gwendolyn Brooks is named Poet Laureate of Illinois.
 - >The Adler Planetarium goes from Park District control to private control.
 - >The city spends \$10 million to renovate Midway Airport.
- 1969
- >The 100-floor John Hancock building is completed.
 - >Black Panther Party leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark are shot and killed in Chicago.
 - >The Chicago Teacher's Union strikes for the first time.
 - >The Board of Trade initiated trading in silver futures.
 - >Though struggling financially, there are 59 branches of the Chicago Public Library.
- 1970
- >African Americans constitute 33% of the population of the city of Chicago.
 - >Half of the population in the Chicago metropolitan area now lives in the suburbs.
 - >Chicago's population is 3,366,957.
 - >Illinois Bell employs roughly 36,000 Chicago-area employees.
 - >The population of Chinese Americans in Chicago is 12,000.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1971-1976

- 1971
- >The Union Stock Yard closes.
 - >Jesse Jackson founds Operation PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity).
 - >Chicago Normal School is re-named Chicago State University and moves into its current home at 95th and King the following year.
 - >Mayor Daley introduces a 34-mile bicycle path in Chicago, in an attempt to encourage bike riding.
 - >Union Station becomes the central passenger train station in Chicago when Amtrak takes over passenger rail travel nationally.
- 1972
- >The first plants are planted in the Chicago Botanic Garden and it opens to the public.
 - >Rush hour bike lanes are introduced on Clark and Dearborn.
 - >The Park District buys the South Shore Country Club and turns it into a public cultural center.
 - >Illinois High School Athletics Association adds girls sports to its state championships.
- 1973
- >The Sears Tower, the tallest building in the world until 2003, is built.
 - >South Shore Bank tries to relocate to the Loop, but is denied permission. They stay and play a major role in revitalizing parts of the South Side.
 - >The Oil Embargo causes hundreds of Chicago gas stations to go out of business.
 - >The Playskool toy company renovates its factory in the northwest suburbs where 1,200 Chicagoans work.
- 1974
- >The city hires female paramedics for the fire department for the first time.
 - >The Islamic Cultural Center of Chicago opens in Northbrook.
 - >Columbia College is accredited, meaning it is recognized nationally as giving a good education.
 - >The Chicago Mercantile Exchange starts trading in gold futures.
 - >The Smart Museum of Art opens at the University of Chicago.
- 1975
- >Water Tower Place Shopping mall opens to directly compete with suburban shopping complexes and try to bring retail back to the city.
 - >Elijah Muhammad, the founder of the Nation of Islam, dies.
 - >Steppenwolf Theater opens in the basement of a suburban church.
 - >Chicago revises its public health system separating policy-making and management.
 - >Walgreen's, the nation's leading drug store, employs 10,000 people when it moves its headquarters to Deerfield in the Chicago suburbs.
- 1976
- >Milton Friedman who teaches at the University of Chicago wins the Nobel Prize in Economics, the first of 8 that the University will win between 1976 and 1995.
 - >Mayor Richard J. Daley dies. The city elects the first non-Irish mayor, Michael Bilandic, since 1933.
 - >Only Delta Airlines flies into Midway anymore as the more popular O'Hare attracts bigger planes and more passengers.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1977-1981

- 1977
- >Hubbard Street Dance Company opens.
 - >Chicago holds the first ever Chicago marathon.
 - >The Chicago Community Trust, a foundation to support Chicago communities, has funds over \$100 million, making it one of the largest community funds in the country.
 - >Leon M. Lederman, a physicist at the Fermilab, discovers one of six known quarks in the world. He goes onto win a Nobel Prize.
 - >The Goodman Theatre Company becomes an independent theatre company with professional actors.
- 1978
- >Chicago starts working on improving its air quality to meet environmental standards. To do so, it cuts private parking garages in the loop.
 - >WGN TV becomes a national non-networked station, just as it started in Chicago.
 - >The Center for Neighborhood Technology opens. It aims to promote just and sustainable communities through energy, housing, conservation policy and more.
 - >One of Chicago's biggest foundations, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is established.
 - >The Mexican artist Frida Kahlo's work is shown at the Museum of Contemporary Art for its first ever US exhibition.
- 1979
- >Chicago elects its first female mayor, Jane M. Byrne.
 - >Following years of financial struggle, the State Street is closed to cars and its sidewalks are widened. The scheme does not work to restore the street's vitality.
 - >The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago develops Atrium Village, a mixed income housing project near Division and LaSalle.
 - >The Chicago Public School system is struggling financially, as are many city wide departments.
 - >The steel industry experiences sudden decline and 16,000 Chicago steel workers will lose their jobs over the next 10 years.
 - >Pope John Paul II visits Chicago.
- 1980
- >The population of the city is 3,005,000; while, the entire metropolitan area population is 7,937,290. More than 50% of people live in the suburbs.
 - >The closing of Wisconsin Steel signals the end of Chicago's dominance of the steel industry.
 - >The state forces a desegregation program in the Chicago Public Schools. 75% of white students will leave the CPS by 1990.
 - >Steppenwolf Theatre Company moves into Chicago.
 - >The Terra Museum of American Art opens.
 - >Taste of Chicago happens for the first time.
- 1981
- >The Pullman Car Works produces its last railroad car.
 - >Morton Grove becomes the first town to ban the sale, transportation, and ownership of handguns.
 - >The Chicago Tribune buys the Chicago Cubs.
 - >The Chicago Sting soccer club wins the national championships. On average, 20,000 people attend each game, which sets a new record.
 - >Columbia College opens a graduate school program.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1982-1986

- 1982
- >Depaul, Loyola, and Mundelein Universities join to form the Hispanic Alliance, to create opportunities for and encourage Hispanic enrollment.
 - >The Chicago Children's Museum opens.
 - >The University of Illinois at Chicago opens combining the two University of Illinois campuses - the Medical and Chicago Circle campuses.
 - >Chicago sets up a Task Force to address the problem of AIDS.
 - >The Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ is the second church in the country to declare sanctuary to Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees.
 - >Chicago is the first major city to ban handgun sales.
- 1983
- >Harold Washington becomes the first African American mayor of Chicago.
 - >Fred Rice is appointed as first African American police superintendent.
 - >The complicated system of suburban buses is combined into one company - Pace.
 - >A law goes into effect which makes it illegal to not hire people based on their political opinions.
 - >Metra Rail, the commuter railway system, opens.
- 1984
- >The Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor is formally signed into being by President Reagan.
 - >Talk show host Oprah Winfrey moves to Chicago.
 - >Midway Airlines, based in Chicago, has over 2,000 employees.
 - >Jewel Grocery Stores, founded in Chicago, controls 30% of the grocery market.
 - >City's homeless population is estimated at 25,000.
- 1985
- >The GospelFest is held for the first time to celebrate and honor both traditional and contemporary styles of gospel music.
 - >Steppenwolf Theatre wins a Tony Award for Best Regional Theatre.
 - >The State Legislature establishes the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy for high school students who stand out in math and science.
 - >Cost of a stamp goes up from 20 cents to 22 cents and the average price for a gallon of gas is \$1.85.
 - >There are over 40 professional dance companies in Chicago.
- 1986
- >The Shedd Aquarium adds river otters to its animal collection.
 - >McCormick Place expands west of Lake Shore Drive.
 - >2,000 people are employed to run clinics and treatment centers and to address public health concerns in the city.
 - >The Schwinn Bicycle Factory shuts down and, a couple of years later, declares bankruptcy.
 - >Mayor Harold Washington dies from a heart attack.
 - >U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett declares Chicago's public schools the "worst in the nation."
 - >The Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum opens in the Pilsen neighborhood.
 - >The Museum of Broadcast Communication opens and is one of the first museums about broadcasting in the world.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1988-1994

- 1988
- >The Chicago School Reform Act passes. It creates Local School Councils for each school which consist of parents, community members, and educators and become a source of energy for schools and communities.
 - >The Mary Thompson Hospital for Women and Children, one of the first hospitals to take care of female patients and train female doctors, closes.
 - >The City of Chicago passes a Human Rights Ordinance.
 - >The Steans Institute for Young Artists at Ravinia Music Festival brings world-renowned musicians to Chicago to study and teach.
 - >There are almost 15,000 students at DePaul University.
- 1989
- >Richard M. Daley, son of Richard J. Daley, is elected mayor.
 - >The Chicago Public Library system starts a period of major growth – renovating or building 41 libraries in the next 15 years.
 - >Chicago Cubs win the Eastern Division Championships.
 - >Rand McNally, the famous Chicago-based map-making company, starts opening retail stores and begins producing electronic maps as well.
- 1990
- >The population of the city is 2,783,726; while that of the entire metropolitan area is 7,410,858.
 - >There are nearly 14,000 Greek Americans living in Chicago.
 - >Steppenwolf wins a second Tony Award, this time for Best Play.
 - >There is on average 1 car per household in the city and 2 cars per household in the suburbs.
- 1991
- >White Sox play their first game in the new Comiskey Park
 - >Mayor Daley creates the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council in order to try to push bike-riding in the city.
 - >The Shedd Aquarium opens the Oceanarium and its ocean mammal exhibits to much acclaim.
 - >Midway Airlines goes out of business.
- 1992
- >When a damaged wall of a tunnel beneath the River opens, it floods basements and underground facilities throughout the Chicago Loop with an estimated 250 million gallons of water.
 - >The Chicago River Demonstration Project starts to evaluate the environmental situation of the river and how to encourage more use of it.
 - >The Park District renovates the Columbus Park in Austin.
 - >Talman Home Federal Savings and Loan merges with LaSalle Bank.
- 1993
- >U.S. Steel's South Works closes, after more than a hundred years of operation.
 - >Cook County re-opens Provident Hospital as another branch of the hospital on the South Side.
 - >DuSable Museum opens another wing, named after Mayor Harold Washington.
 - >Chicago holds a centennial meeting of the World Parliament of Religions, which first occurred at the 1893 World's Fair.
 - >1.6 million Chicagoans don't have health insurance, are under-insured, or are on Medicaid.
- 1994
- >Chicago hosts the Men's World Cup in soccer.
 - >Southwest Airlines employs 1,200 people in the Chicago-land area.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—1995-2000

- 1995
- >18 percent of the police department's sworn officers are female.
 - >A 148-foot Ferris wheel, that is supposed to remind the city of the 1893 World's Fair, is erected at Navy Pier, which is being renovated.
 - >The Joffrey Ballet Company moves to Chicago.
 - >The city starts the "Blue Bag" recycling program.
 - >739 people die in a major heat wave.
- 1996
- >State Street is reopened to cars and Victorian-style lighting and street furniture are added - in the hope of reminding the city's end-of-the-millennium population of the street's previous glories.
 - >President Clinton is re-nominated at the United Center.
 - >The Chicago Public Schools are 55% African American, 31% Latino and 11% White.
 - >The City starts to encourage tourism in the traditionally ethnic neighborhoods of Chicago – showing off places like Pilsen with its festivals, murals, and many authentic Mexican restaurants.
 - >Navy Pier re-opened to the public.
- 1997
- >The CTA is the second-largest transit system in the US. It runs 1,900 buses and 1,150 rapid transit cars and makes 419 million passengers trips a year.
 - >The Chicago Children's Choir has over 2,700 members (from kindergarten through high school).
 - >Cracker Jack, an old Chicago company, is bought by Pepsico.
 - >True Value Hardware employs over 2,000 Chicagoans and supplies over 10,000 hardware retailers.
- 1998
- >The Chicago Bulls win their 6th championship in 8 years.
 - >The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) has 25,000 students enrolled in 15 different schools.
 - >Construction on Millennium Park begins.
 - >The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has over \$4 billion.
 - >2,200,000 people visit Brookfield Zoo.
- 1999
- >City News Bureau closes.
 - >A "green market," which sells only locally grown organic produce, opens in downtown Chicago.
- 2000
- >As of the 2000 census, there were 2,896,016 people, 1,061,928 households, and 632,909 families residing within Chicago.
 - >The racial makeup of the city is 41.97% White (31.32% White Non-Hispanic), 36.77% African American, 4.35% Asian, 0.06% Pacific Islander, 0.36% Native American, 13.58% from other races, and 2.92% from two or more races. 26.02% of the population was Hispanic of any race. 21.72% of the population was foreign born; of this, 56.29% came from Latin America, 23.13% from Europe, 17.96% from Asia and 2.62% from other parts of the world.
 - >560,000 Mexican Americans live in Chicago.
 - >137,670 citizens of Polish descent live in Chicago.
 - >More than 75% of Chicago's public school students are from low-income or poor families. Schooling is highly unequal across the region.

CHICAGO TIME LINE—2001-2008

- 2001
- >The Chicago Housing Authority begins demolishing Stateway Gardens, a public housing high rise.
 - >There are 4,653 gas stations in Chicago.
 - >The Boeing Corporation, maker of airplanes, moves its corporate headquarters to Chicago.
 - >Arne Duncan becomes CEO of the Chicago Public Schools.
- 2002
- >The new John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County opens.
 - >There are 61,769 students enrolled in the 139 Catholic elementary schools and 25 high schools in Chicago.
 - >261,600 people, or 6.7%, are unemployed in Chicago.
- 2003
- >Comiskey Park is renamed US Cellular Field.
 - >Chicago Cubs win their first post season games since 1908.
 - >Chicago Fire win U.S. Open Cup.
 - >Meigs Field Airport closes.
- 2004
- >Millennium Park Opens.
 - >Barack Obama, who is from Chicago, wins a seat in the US Senate and is the only African American member of the Senate at the time.
- 2005
- >Chicago White Sox win World Series.
- 2006
- >The Chicago White Sox win the World Series.
 - >The Pink Line opens.
 - >400,000 people protest again immigration reform in downtown Chicago.
 - >Marshall Field's closes after 150 years in Chicago.
 - >The YWCA celebrates 150 years in Chicago.
- 2007
- >There are 483 Elementary Schools and 116 High Schools in the Chicago Public School system.
 - >Barack Obama announces his bid for President of the U.S.
 - >Chicago wins the right to represent the US in the bid for 2016 Olympics.
- 2008
- >There are 680 public schools, 394 private schools, 83 colleges, and 88 libraries in Chicago proper.

What's next?

Use the Internet and history books to find out.

What's ahead?

What do you predict the choices and changes of the future will be?

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