

Organize a Literate Field Trip to the Chicago History Museum

Example of activities to integrate the Chicago Literacy Initiative with a Chicago History Museum field trip.

CRI	Before the Trip	During the Trip	After the Trip
Word Knowledge	Make a list of important terms to find examples of in the exhibit.	Look for those words and draw a picture of what you see that shows what they mean. (Or make notes.)	Make a Chicago History word wall with pictures and/or objects that show what they mean. Use your words to write about Chicago.
Guided Reading Comprehension	Identify a theme or focus for the trip. Read/listen to books about Chicago's past. "Read" objects—interpret what an object tells about Chicago people, places, choices, changes.	"Read" exhibits: Locate and collect information that relates to a topic or question. Infer what people in Chicago might have done and said at the time shown in the exhibits.	Read to learn more about questions and topics related to the museum field trip. Synthesize: based on what you saw, what you read, and what you knew, what do you think is important to understand about Chicago's history.
Fluency	Read a Chicago story or poem with expression.	Read a Chicago poem or dialogue in an exhibit.	Write and then read aloud with expression your own Chicago poem or dialogue.
Writing	Write about Chicago today. Explain what's important about the city.	Write words and notes that tell what you find about the past that is important.	Write your own Chicago histories: Booklets Biographies Children's book Diaries (imaginary) Write about Chicago now and in the past. Write about Chicago's future.