

**DePaul Center for Urban Education  
Chicago Math Connections**

This project is funded by the Illinois Board of Higher Education through the  
Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development program

**Topic: Comparing distances on a city map**

**Goal(s): 6,7**

**Skills: Locating points on a map**

**Using scale to estimate distance**

**What's the context?**

Comparing straight line distances (the way the crow flies) vs. street routes to locations within Chicago.

**What resources will students use?**

Chicago Area Map and ruler

**What will students learn from this project?**

**Know how** – what will they be able to do better?

Estimate distances using map scales

**Know what** – what idea(s) will they clarify through the project?

Students will gain an improved spatial sense of the city of Chicago

**What's the challenge?**

- 1). Study a Chicago map and locate approximately where you live and make this a starting point for your travels around the city.
- 3). Locate a place you would like to visit and estimate how far this location is from your house.
- 5). Using a ruler and your house as a starting point, draw a line with a pencil between your house and the first place you are visiting and measure the length with the ruler. Use the map scale to convert this distance to miles.
- 6). Now calculate the shortest route to this same location traveling on streets to compare this distance with the straight line distance you drew with your pencil.
- 7). Compare the two distances and complete these same steps for four more locations.

**Checkpoint:** Have students pair up and compare calculations. After checking your work, write out directions on how to get to your two favorite places.