# After the Fire

**Causes and Effects**

Long ago, there was a huge fire in Chicago.  The weather had been very dry for weeks.  Trees and plants were dried out.  The houses and the streets were made of wood.  They had been made of wood because it is harder to build a street with rocks.

Because wood burns easily, it was really hard to put the fire out.  The fire burned for more than 30 hours and the people could not stop it.

When it started to rain, it helped calm the fire and finally people were safe, but they saw how much was lost.  Many blocks had burned up, many families lost their homes.   The fire had burned up a large part of the city.

There was a lot of trash left after the fire.  A leader had a plan that they should put the burned things in the lake near where the fired burned the city.

**Choices and Changes**

They did put the trash in the lakeshore near downtown.  By piling dirt on top, planting grass and planting trees they filled in the edge of the lake.  That is called landfill. The leaders said the new land would be a special place, a very large park near downtown.

Even though they lost their homes in the fire, many families stayed in Chicago and rebuilt their houses. Five years after the fire, Chicago looked new because people built new homes and the government constructed new streets. The government and people knew that it was safer to use bricks and stones instead of wood.

It is important to learn from history.   People learned from the fire to build safely.  That lesson is s Grant Park, the park that people built on landfill after the fire. When they visit the park, they are visiting Chicago's history.  The choice people made long ago made that park part of Chicago today.

**Sequence Events, then Summarize**

CCSSR1 and 2—read carefully, then summarize and figure out a BIG idea.

- ➔ Make a timeline showing what happened.  Then write a summary.  A summary is a few sentences that tell what is important.
- ➔ Then figure out the big idea that you learned from this history. Is it: __the fire changed Chicago   or   __people's choices changed Chicago