



Chicago Changes

Long ago, Chicago was just a small town. Families settled here, and everyone knew everyone else. Residents worked hard to get what they needed, and even children worked, too. People had to work every single day. At that time, there were no schools. They had to get wood to make their houses, and they had to get wood to heat them in winter, as well.

Then, more people moved to Chicago with their families. They wanted to have a school, so they built one themselves. All the children in the city went to school in that one place. The teacher instructed them on reading and writing, and the students learned math, too. Then, after school they would go home and help out their families.

People constructed more and more homes. They built streets out of wood, and they rode the streets on horseback. Some people had wagons and horses would pull them. At night it was difficult to see, so the wagons had lanterns. A lantern is a type of light that uses a candle or oil to illuminate. Sometimes the lanterns would fall off the wagons. Then they might set the street on fire, since the street was made of wood. So people carried buckets of water in their wagons just in case.

When more people moved to Chicago they opened businesses. They opened a blacksmith shop, where a worker would fix wagon wheels made of metal. The blacksmith would make horseshoes, too. There was a carpenter shop, also, and workers there would build furniture for homes.

After many years, there were more people here and several changes. The streets were paved and lined with streetlights. People could shop for clothes, and they could buy furniture that was already made.

Chicago was in a good place for traveling. People built railroad tracks, which allowed trains to come to the city. It was both on a river and on a lake. Chicago was becoming a large city. Every day, more people came to live here. Businesses opened and people started a newspaper. It was a changing place.

Support the Main Idea

CCSSR1 and 2—read carefully to figure out the main idea.

What is the main idea of this passage?

Put X next to three paragraphs that support it strongly. Then underline the parts of the paragraphs that support it.