

CHICAGO PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT TIME LINE 1822-1871 CHOICES AND CHANGES

This Time Line lists some events that directly or indirectly affected the physical environment in Chicago. As you read each event, identify:

- Immediate effect on the environment
- Effects that would follow later
- Cause or causes of each event
- Who made the choices that led to these changes

- 1822 A lighthouse is built.
 Sawmills are built on Hickory Creek.
- 1823 A law is passed to stop river pollution.
- 1825 There are about 14 houses in Chicago.
- 1827 A slaughterhouse is built on the North Branch of the river.
 The Sauganash Hotel is built.
- 1830 The first streets and lots are laid out.
- 1834 The first Chicago warehouse is built (at LaSalle and S. Water
 Streets). It is the first large brick building in Chicago.
 The first drawbridge over the river is built at Dearborn Street.
- 1836 People complain about the ponds on LaSalle Street where many
 frogs live.
- 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).
 There are: 4 warehouses, 398 homes, 29 dry-goods stores,
 10 taverns, 26 groceries, 17 lawyer's offices, 5 churches in
 Chicago.
- 1839 Fire destroys the Tremont Hotel and 17 other buildings on Lake
 and Dearborn streets.
- 1841 The Wells Street bridge is built.
- 1843 Work on the canal stops because the state needs money.
- 1845 The first 3-story building in Chicago is built.
 Work on the canal begins again.

- 1848 The Illinois and Michigan Canal is finished. It links the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley.
From 1848-1855 there is a cholera epidemic, partly due to the poor sanitary conditions
- 1849 Fire destroys the rebuilt Tremont Hotel and 19 other buildings. There is a big flood, and the Clark Street bridge is washed away by the rushing water and ice.
- 1850 The city is lighted with gas.
- 1853 The first Water Works is built.
- 1854 2,424 people die of cholera due to swampy conditions and poor drainage.
- 1855 The city begins to raise the street level to improve drainage. George Pullman comes to Chicago to work as an engineer and contractor. In 1854, he had demonstrated how to raise buildings, lifting the Tremont Hotel eight feet with 500 men and 2,500 jackscrews.
- 1856 The first wooden pavement is laid on Wells Street from Lake Street to South Water Street.
- 1864 Lincoln Park is founded.
- 1866 There is a cholera epidemic.
- 1867 A sanitary water system is set up.
- 1868 New York's Central Park Zoo donates two swans to Chicago, and Lincoln Park Zoo begins with this donation.
- 1871 The Chicago fire destroys much of the center of the city. 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. This makes the lake front bigger. This area becomes Grant Park.

Choices and Changes Today

Choose one change in the Time Line.

What kinds of changes in Chicago today are like that change?

What choices should Chicago leaders make about dealing with that change?