

# Challenges

## Choices

## Changes

# CHICAGO

**A collection of readings tracing Chicago history.**

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**Developed by the Polk Bros. Foundation Center for Urban Education  
at DePaul University  
for the Chicago History Museum**

## Native Americans in Checagou (NONFICTION)

The city of Chicago is only about 150 years old. Long ago, before it was a city, people lived in this area. They were Native Americans who lived in Chicago long before it had this name.

They were the ones who actually gave it its name. They called the city Checagou, which means wild onions. Every year, it was difficult to live here in the wintertime because it was snowy and extremely cold. There were not even any plants to pick. Then, the first plant that grew was the wild onion. In early spring, the Native Americans would eat it. Therefore, this became the place of the wild onion. No one actually planted it; the onion grew naturally.

There were grasslands and forests, and there were also many animals. The Native Americans survived by hunting and fishing and from food they grew. In the summer, they grew food by planting vegetables. While it was still summer, they began to prepare for the winter. They knew it would be freezing and snowy. They would be able to track rabbits in the winter, and there would also be deer. However, they would not have as much food because there would be no plants growing in winter.

In summer, the families would relocate to a village near a lake or river and build homes there. They would build the homes together. The homes were very large, so that a family could have several people living in one home. The families would fish and grow food. People in the village helped each other out. There always was work to do, and the family members shared the jobs.

Then in winter, they would leave the village and build homes in the woods. Each family would build its own home, and would take animal skins with them to help construct their homes. They would use branches to make a kind of tent, and then cover the walls with those skins to keep them warm. They were particularly skilled at building those types of homes.

They would continue to hunt for food, and sometimes they would move their home in winter to a place where they could find more animals to hunt. It was difficult to get the food they needed. The weather was harsh, and animals sometimes died of starvation. Native Americans had to deal with the weather, getting food, and keeping warm. So, when they found the wild onions they knew it soon would be better weather and they would have more food. They would be able to join their friends and family at the summer village.

Today in Chicago, Native Americans face different challenges. They have jobs to earn money to live. They work every day in many occupations. No longer is it a place for hunting and building your own home. It is hard to imagine what it looked like here long ago.

### Support the Central Idea

What is the central idea of this passage?

Underline five sentences in the passage that support that idea.

## Potawatomi Prairie (Historical Fiction)

The Potawatomi tribe lived in this area several hundred years ago. The Potawatomi shifted their homes and had different sets of chores in different seasons. In summer, the families all relocated to one large village, while, in winter, they set up separate, smaller camps. This page describes a typical year for a Potawatomi family a couple hundred years ago.

### Summer

We use large poles to build our new house in the communal village. My mother and I use a shoulder bone from a deer to plow our fields and set our seeds. It is very difficult work, but we need to do it so we will have lots of food in the fall. We get to see our friends and the entire extended family, and there are so many things to see and do in the summer, which makes it my sister's favorite season – it is really a fun time. My mother also likes it because being with our big family means there are people to help with the work and other people to talk with. There is a lot of work to do, but everyone helps and there is company.

### Autumn

We have lots of food: big squashes and pumpkins and corn too. Every day, I am able to harvest even more beans. We dry the big gourds to eat in the winter, when we will have less food and when it will be too cold to want to search for more. My father found salt from a salt spring and we are using it to dry the meat. This is so exciting because we sometimes run out of meat before the winter ends or it starts to go bad and we cannot eat it. I search for nuts and berries from the forest. Sometimes, I eat them when I find them, but I try to bring most of them home and we dry those too. Soon we will move to our winter site.

### Winter

We saw deer and raccoons and knew this would be a good place for hunting, so that will help us have meat this year. We set up a wigwam, which will be our house for the winter months. We stuck one end of tree branches in the ground and then tied them together in the middle. In the winter, we cook inside and we had to remember to leave a gap for the smoke from the fire to get out. We pasted bark on the outside of the wigwam to insulate the wigwam and to help keep the heat inside. Today, it is cold and it just snowed. My father says that he will be able to see the tracks of elk in the snow and can more easily hunt them now. He will soon go to hunt and my mother says that afterwards we will have lots of food, but also lots of work; we will have to cut the meat from the animal and separate the skin to make blankets and rugs. If we don't have enough food in this place, we may move our camp to another place, with more animals.

### Spring

In the spring, we can always find my favorite food, which is syrup. We make a hole in a tree and then the sweet juice comes out of the tree. My father made a fishing net from deer sinew and will go out to fish soon. He tied shells to the bottom of the net and when they fill with water, it sinks to the bottom of the stream. This summer, my brother will get to fish, too. He has a line and a hook, which he uses to fish in the lake. Since we get fish in the winter only when we go out and cut through the ice, fishing is mostly a spring and summer job. I like fish and like to watch my father and my brother standing by the lake or the stream. My father likes the spring best. He says it is a time of hope because we start to see all the things that went to sleep in the winter waking up again. He hears the birds sing and sees the plants start to grow again. I like spring, too because soon we will see the flowers.

**What is the theme of this passage?**

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**Underline the parts of the passage that show that is the theme.**

## Chicago Legacy: Jean Baptiste Pointe duSable

Common Core Anchor Reading Standard 2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

A man named Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable came to Chicago more than 220 years ago. Chicago was a very small place then. Only about 350 people lived here. It is hard to imagine what Chicago looked like long ago when he lived here. There were just a few small buildings and no roads, just some paths people could walk along. It must have been very hard to live in Chicago then. Winters were snowy. In spring the ground was muddy. There were no stores. People had to build their own homes.

DuSable chose to come here because it was a place where he could build a trading post. A trading post is a kind of business. People get things they need there. They trade other things for them.

DuSable built his trading post himself. He had plan how the trading post would look. He had to find and cut the wood he needed to build it. It was hard work.

This early Chicago businessman chose a good location for the trading post. He built it at the river near the lake. That way people could get to it by boat. In those days, people traveled by foot or by boat or by horse.

DuSable traded with the Potawatomi. The Potawatomi are Native Americans who had lived in this area for many years. He traded tools to them for furs. The Native Americans were able to get things they did not have by trading.

DuSable traded with settlers who came to live here. A settler is a person who moves to a place and builds a home. Settlers brought some things with them, but they needed many things to build their homes. The settlers found what they needed at the trading post. His trading post was very important because it helped people live here. If there were no trading post, it would have been very hard to stay here.

DuSable probably knew Chicago was going to grow. He saw more settlers moving here every year. His business was an important place to all of them. As DuSable's trading post became more and more important, he added more rooms.

Although he had an important business, DuSable left Chicago in 1800. He sold the trading post to a man who kept it open, so the business he started continued. So did Chicago. It still was a very small town in 1800, but it would grow.

A legacy is what someone leaves to other people. DuSable's legacy is important. His trading post started Chicago's progress. His choice to come here made a big difference because he helped people settle in Chicago. 1968 Chicago called him the "Father of Chicago". Today there is a museum named for him, and there is a DuSable Park, too. That park is at the river where DuSable started his business. That was not just the first business in Chicago. It was the start of helping people to build the city of Chicago.

### **AFTER YOU READ, THINK ABOUT THE WHOLE HISTORY CCSSR3—analyze relationships.**

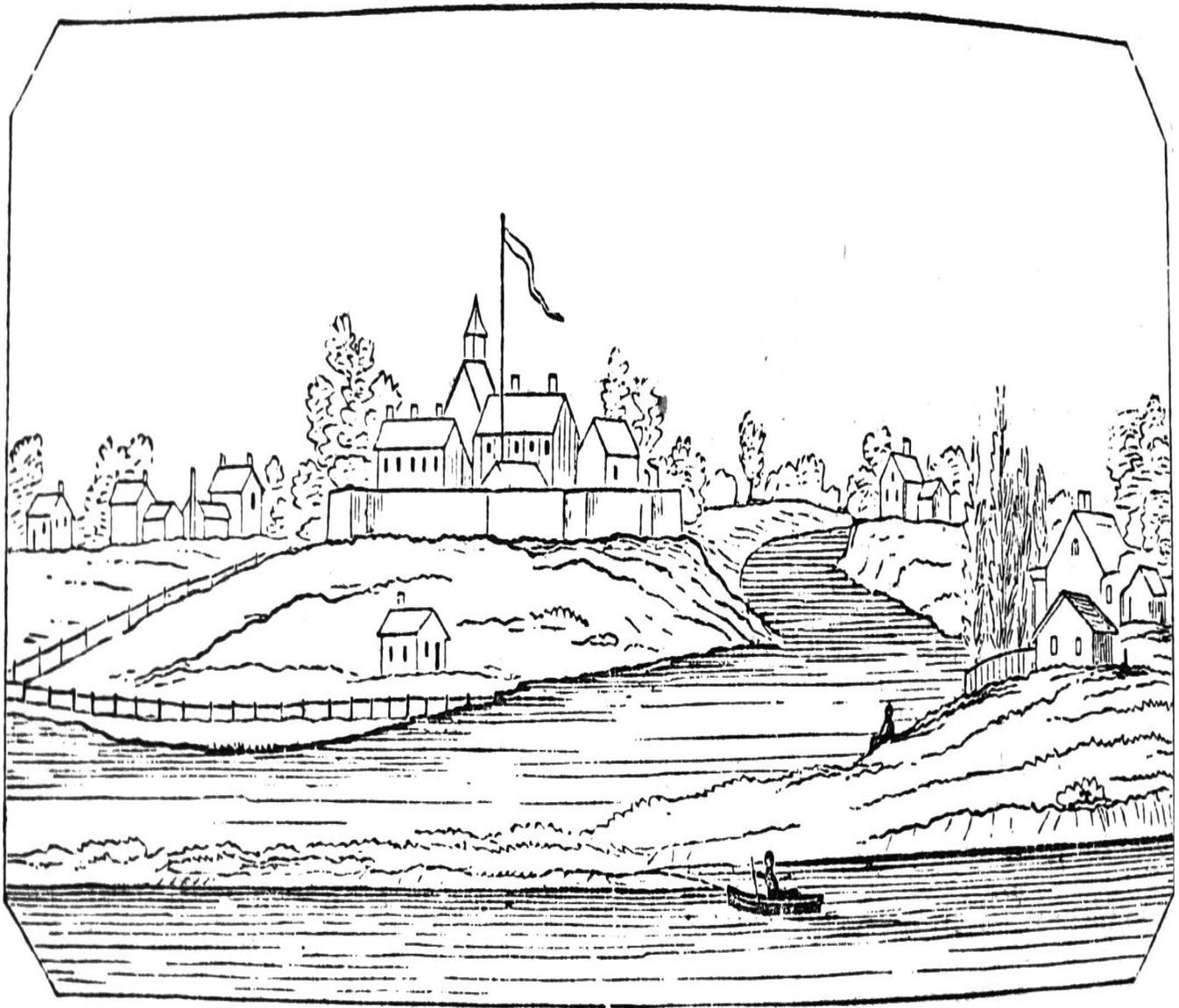
- What was Chicago like when DuSable lived here? Underline the words that tell about Chicago then. Draw a picture showing what Chicago might have looked like when DuSable started his business.

Constructed Response:

- What challenges did DuSable face? How did he overcome them?
- What are some his traits? How do you know?

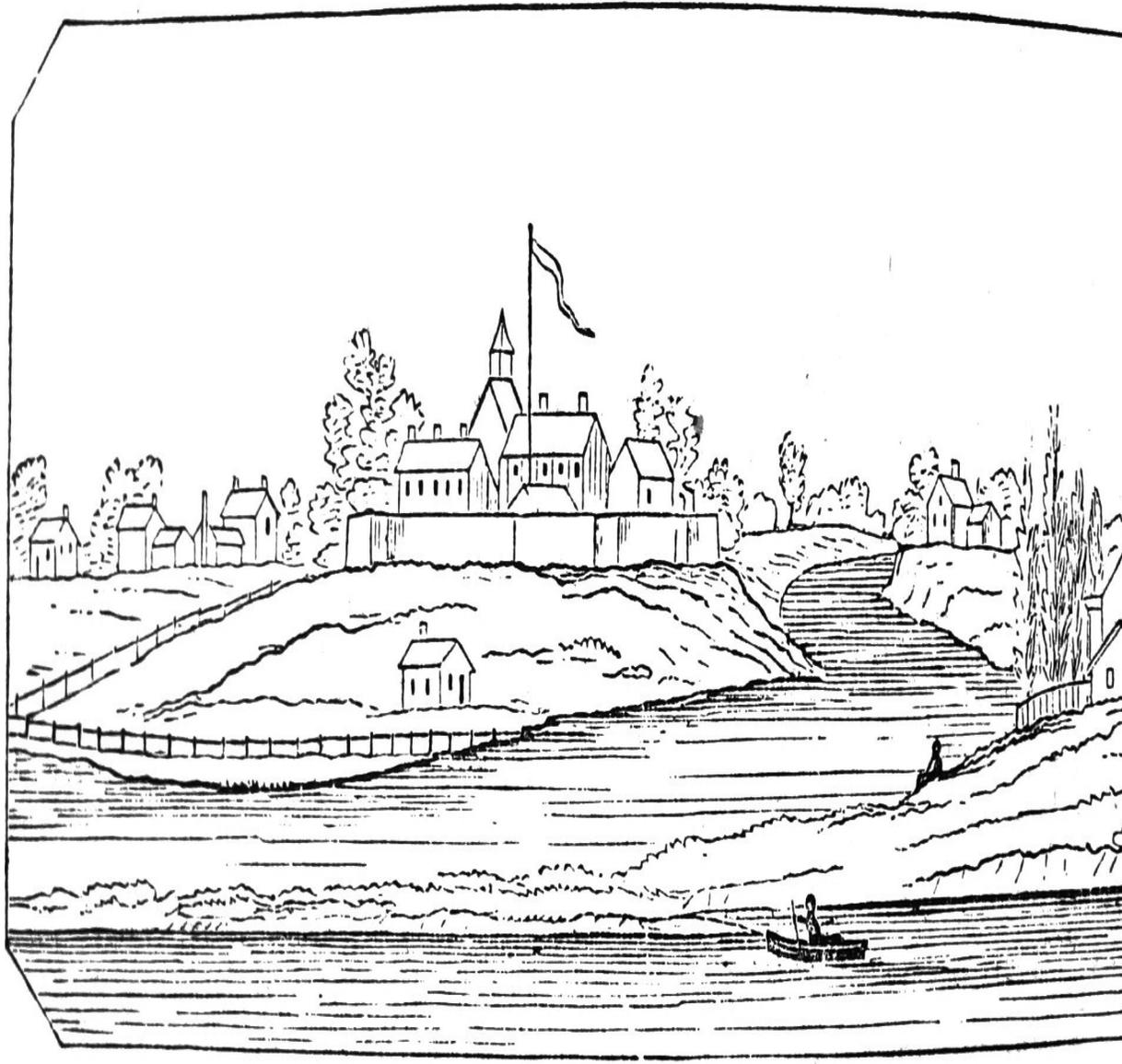
**View of Chicago in 1831 by Barber and Howe, 1865.**

Source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chicago\\_1831\\_Barber\\_1865p286.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chicago_1831_Barber_1865p286.jpg)



What challenges did persons who moved to Chicago in 1831 face?

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What challenges did persons who moved to Chicago in 1831 face?

## Settling in Chicago: What should we bring?

You're a family moving to Chicago from Boston in 1831. You're traveling by covered wagon. It's not a big wagon. Choose just ten of these objects to take with you to help you when you settle in Chicago.

<input type="checkbox"/> pillow	<input type="checkbox"/> nails
<input type="checkbox"/> mirror	<input type="checkbox"/> hunting knife
<input type="checkbox"/> potatoes	<input type="checkbox"/> quilt
<input type="checkbox"/> horseshoe	<input type="checkbox"/> candle
<input type="checkbox"/> bucket	<input type="checkbox"/> canteen
<input type="checkbox"/> bowl	<input type="checkbox"/> bread
<input type="checkbox"/> butter churn	<input type="checkbox"/> violin
<input type="checkbox"/> coffee beans	<input type="checkbox"/> flour
<input type="checkbox"/> hammer	<input type="checkbox"/> first aid kit
<input type="checkbox"/> frying pan	<input type="checkbox"/> lantern
<input type="checkbox"/> honey	<input type="checkbox"/> pocket watch
<input type="checkbox"/> table	<input type="checkbox"/> soap bar and scrub
<input type="checkbox"/> anvil	<input type="checkbox"/> axe
<input type="checkbox"/> banjo	<input type="checkbox"/> books
<input type="checkbox"/> wheel barrow	<input type="checkbox"/> spinning wheel
<input type="checkbox"/> shovel	<input type="checkbox"/> saw
<input type="checkbox"/> rifle	<input type="checkbox"/> rocking chair

*This activity was designed originally by Jeanine Stec for the Chicago History Museum.*

Think More: Read the reports on the next page and review your choices. What changes would you make in your "top ten".

## Illinois: Pioneers and Prairies

Common Core Anchor Reading Standard 2. Identify main ideas and support with examples.

Illinois is called the prairie state. Long ago, most of the land was prairie. A prairie is a kind of grassland. The grass in a prairie is very high. It can get to be six feet tall.

Pioneers are people who do something for the first time. Although Native Americans lived in Illinois for a long time, the people who came to build houses here were called pioneers. They were the first people to come to set up towns. The Native Americans had moved from place to place.

The pioneers were called settlers. That is because they came to stay. Settle means stay. It was hard to get to Illinois. The pioneers had to bring most of what they needed to live with them. They traveled in wagons. Horses or oxen pulled the wagons. They traveled for many days.

The pioneers came from another place. They came to Illinois to find a good place to live. Many were farmers. They knew the land here was good. They brought tools to farm. They brought axes and other tools, too.

The first thing the pioneers did was clear their land. They cut down the prairie grass. Then they dug in the soil. They would plant corn. They would plant wheat. They grew vegetables, too. And they raised chickens and pigs.

It was hard work. The children worked, too. They planted. They helped in the home. They did not go to school at first. There was no school.

Pioneers were glad to be in Illinois. They had good land. They could get water from creeks and rivers. They could go fishing. They could hunt, too. They could grow crops.

As soon as more pioneers came, they would make town. They would choose leaders. They would name their town. They would set up a government. The government would set up laws. The town would build a school. But parents said that the school should be closed in summer.

### Think More

What do you think the main idea of this reading is?

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Underline the parts of the reading that show that is the main idea.

Constructed Response:

What do you think an important trait of a pioneer is?  
Support your answer with examples from the reading.

## Pioneer Challenges

CCSSR1: Infer with evidence; CCSSR3: Analyze relationships

*Martha Ann Morrison wrote about her Illinois trip in 1844 at thirteen years old.*

The men had a great deal of anxiety and all the care of their families, but still the mothers had the families directly in their hands and were with them all the time, especially during sickness. Some of the women I saw on the road went through a great deal of suffering and trial. I remember distinctly one girl in particular about my own age that died and was buried on the road. Her mother had a great deal of trouble and suffering. It strikes me as I think of it now that Mothers on the road had to undergo more trial and suffering than anybody else.

Mollie Dorsey Sanford recalled that "It had occurred to me how much easier I could get through the tangled underbrush if I were a man, and I slipped out the back shed, and donned an old suit of Father's clothes...it was very funny to all but Mother, who feared I am losing all the dignity I ever possessed.

Not long after father left, it began to snow, and how it did snow and blow and drift. It drifted until there was a snow bank nearly as high as the little cottonwood house and entirely around it, and packed so hard we children could run on it like it was ice. The fences were all hidden under the snow.

How the days dragged on and how fast the scant provisions disappeared in spite of my mother's care. Our cows had strayed away and mother would not let my brother go hunt them lest he perish in the deep snow. Some kind neighbors came and cut a fresh supply of wood. My brother and I had gathered a big supply of walnuts and stored them away, and then came a day when there was nothing to eat but the nuts and pork. My baby brother, who was about two years old, would not eat such food and he cried for bread, and there was none to give him. That was more than my mother could bear and she broke down and cried. It was the only time we children saw her other than brave and hopeful all through those long, trying weeks. The cold was intense, and the wind fierce, and the wolves would come and fight with our dogs right on the door stone, and how that would frighten us.

One night, about ten o'clock, my father got home, and I remember I had gone to bed hungry that night, so my mother made some biscuit dough and baked it on the griddles in front of the fireplace, and she then wakened me so I could eat some and see my father.

Now we had plenty and the neighbors came for miles to borrow flour and none were sent away empty, for they had all been so kind to mother and her helpless little ones.

### What were the most important traits of pioneers?

## Settlers' Challenges

Infer traits (CCSSR1), analyze ideas (CCSSR2)

Many settlers came to Illinois to farm. They found the land difficult to plant because of the thick grass root system--the area was mostly an open grassland. When settlers came, they traded goods with the Potawatomi to get food and animal skins. After a time, the Potawatomi were forced to move when homesteaders took over the land. The Potawatomi asked that they could stay "on the land given to us by the great spirit," but they could not continue to live here. By 1831, they had to move. They no longer would be able to trade with the settlers.

Here is what one woman wrote about her trip to live in Illinois.

*I have dragged one foot after the other so long and hope for the best. Friday Eve. We commence a fourteen mile prairie after we got to Paris, Illinois, hot though it was as the sun was setting it was very good some part of the way—Many bad slews. The Doctor got stuck, twice, the oxen drew him out. The prairies look fine. Many kinds of flowers grow on them—and prairie hens live on them, one of the company shot one. Eliza looks bad but says she feels like helping me get supper. Oh, dear, I think it's hard time.*

*Saturday 15th. Today have been traveling through prairie and timber, both, and got lost in the bargain—we took the wrong road and wallowed around the prairie grass, sometimes as high as the horses' back. Night came we pitched our tent after mowing the grass down and made as comfortable as could be expected amongst the mosquitoes.*

Here is what one woman's life was like after settling.

*The woman told me that they spun and wove all the cotton and woolen garments of the family, and knit all the stockings; her husband, though not a shoe-maker by trade, made all the shoes. She made all the soap and candles they used, and prepared her sugar from the sugar-trees on their farm. All she wanted with money, she said, was to buy coffee and tea, and she could "get enough any day by sending a batch of butter and chicken to market." They used no wheat, nor sold any of their corn, which though it appeared a very large quantity, was not more than they required to make their bread and cakes of various kinds, and to feed all their live stock during the winter."*

Here are problems the settlers faced each season:

*Fall—the threat of fire—the prairie grass became very dry and a spark could start a fire that would burn the prairie and their cabin*

*Winter—freezing cold, deep snow, people got lost in the drifts when the trails were covered*

*Spring—the prairie became swampy when the snow melted*

*Summer—some days were very hot and there was no shady forest to cool yourself; there were so many insects that sometimes horses died from being stung so much.*

- What are 5 important challenges the settlers faced? Make a list of 5 challenges and put the number of your challenge next to the paragraph that tells about it.
- What traits would settlers need? List three traits and use examples from the reading to support your inference.
- What is the central idea of this passage? Underline the evidence for your conclusion.
- Constructed Response: What would a settler have written in a letter to relatives in a city in the East? Choose one of these ideas to explain: Chicago is a place of challenges or Chicago is a place of possibilities. Use examples from your reading to support your idea in the letter.

## Analyze Changes

CCSSR1: Read carefully and make logical inferences based on analyzing the text ; then summarize to support an idea (CCSSR2)

### CHICAGO TIME LINE—1832-1833

- 1832      The population was 150.  
               A lighthouse is built.  
               Sawmills are built on Hickory Creek.
- 1833      The population is 350.  
               Chicago is incorporated as a town of one square kilometer, bordered by today's Kinzie, Madison, State, and Des Plaines Streets.  
               Black bears roam near what today is the Loop.  
               Tyler Blodgett opens a brickyard on the North Side near the river.  
               George Dole makes the first shipment of beef to the East—in barrels—he ships 287 barrels of beef, 14 barrels of tallow, 2 barrels of beeswax, and 152 dried animal hides.  
               The first jail is built (of logs).  
               The first Chicago newspaper—*The Chicago Democrat*—begins.  
               The first lumber yard opens.  
               Eliza Chappell opens the first publicly funded school.  
               There are four blacksmith shops.  
               Four lake steamers enter the harbor during the year.  
               A law is passed to stop river pollution.

***Why might the population more than double between 1832 and 1833?***

***What was next? What you do infer would be the next changes for Chicago?***

Change	Why I predict it

To support your inferences, go to <http://teacher.depaul.edu> to find the next years in this timeline. Or go to the Chicago History Museum website, [chicagohistory.org](http://chicagohistory.org) and read about Chicago changes in the Encyclopedia of Chicago's history.

### SUMMARIZE:

Summarize what you have learned about Chicago's pioneers.  
 Start with a central idea. Then use examples to support it.