

## Our Streets

CCSSR1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCSSR2: Determine **central ideas or themes** of a text and analyze their development; **summarize** the key supporting details and ideas.

Chicago has hundreds of miles of streets. Each one of them has a history. Someone decided where it should be. People worked to make the street. People work to keep it clean. When you see a street you are looking at work people did in the past. You are looking at work people do today.

The first worker to make a street is a planner. The planner has a map of the city. It shows the streets that were built. The planner decides where new streets will go. They put lines on the map. They design the new streets.

In your neighborhood, there are probably no new streets. But some time in the past a planner decided where those streets would be. The planner decided how long they would be. The planner decided how wide they would be.

Then workers built the street. That is a big job. Workers use equipment to dig the street bed. That is the bottom of the street. It has to be even. It has to be straight. They use a map to show where to dig. They use tools to make sure the street is in the right place. It needs to be as long and wide as the plan. They draw lines on the ground. Then they dig with big machines. After that, they put in the concrete for the street. They measure that. They wait for it to dry. Then they put the top on the street. All this takes a lot of people, especially if it is a long street.

There are workers who decide where to put stop signs and stop lights. Those signs are next. Then the street is ready to use.

After that, there is more work to do. The streets have to be kept clean. That takes workers who come with street sweepers. Those are big machines. They may come once a week to clean the street. Before they do, other workers put up signs. Those signs tell people not to park on the street on the day they will clean it.

In winter Chicago is cold. There is a lot of ice. Some workers come in winter to clean the streets after a snow storm. They may work all night if there is a big storm. They start by clearing the big streets. Then they clear the smaller ones. It can be a very big job if there is a really big snowstorm.

After winter, there are potholes in Chicago streets. Those are holes in the street because of the snow and ice. So workers come to fill them in.

So Chicago streets are a lot of work. The work does not end after the street is built. That is just the beginning.

### EXPLAIN WHAT YOU LEARNED

1. Underline the most important information in each paragraph.
2. Write a short summary that tells what the passage explains. Include only the most important information.

*Start your summary this way:*

The main idea of the passage is \_\_\_\_\_.  
Here is information that helps you understand that idea.

Then finish the summary. Include the information that helps explain the main idea.