

Before there was a city of Chicago, a brave man moved here. It was tough to live here then. There were no stores. There were no settlers. It was very cold in the winter and hot in the summer. There was a lot of snow in winter, too. So, it was hard to travel then. In spring, there was a lot of rain and mud, and that made it hard to travel as well.

Then an early Chicago leader came here. His name was Jean Baptiste Point DuSable. He was the first person who was not a Native American to settle here. He was African American. DuSable built a cabin on the Chicago River. He started a business by trading with Native Americans. He opened a trading post here in the late 1770s. At first, it was just a small home. But he stayed for more than 20 years. He added to it. It became the most important part of the area.

Getting things to Chicago was hard. Chicago was a very small town. It was many miles away from any other city. At first, DuSable traded only with the Native Americans and explorers. He would give them tools and other goods and he would get back things that they grew, hunted, or made. As more people moved here, his trading post became more important. Settlers bought goods, too.

DuSable's trading post helped explorers to keep going. They could buy supplies at his post. This would let them travel further. That trading post helped start Chicago as a city. When families moved to Chicago, they could get what they needed at the trading post.

Settlers bought many things from the trading post. DuSable sold blankets, butter, furs, knives, cloth, and guns. Settlers and Native Americans traded or paid money for those things.

Jean Baptiste Point DuSable sold his trading post and moved on in 1800. He left a legacy, however. The trading post had been a kind of anchor of the growing community.

DuSable was the first person to help people come to Chicago. He helped them stay here, too. That is why Chicago called him the "father" of the city. He made it possible to settle here.

Today there is a harbor named for DuSable. There is a park too. That park is near where he started the first Chicago business. Probably the biggest legacy from DuSable is where the city is. His post was the starting point for making the town that became today's big city.

Compare and Contrast Nonfiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. How is a trading post like a store?

- a. People pay money for everything.
- b. At both places, people get what they need.
- c. They are not alike.
- d. They are places people go to meet others.

2. How was Chicago in 1804 different from Chicago today?

- a. It was very busy.
- b. There were no people here.
- c. It was a much smaller place.
- d. There were many businesses.

3. How is DuSable like leaders today?

- a. He made changes that helped Chicago.
- b. He left Chicago.
- c. He started a business.
- d. He was part of Chicago's history.

4. What is the same about Chicago's environment today and in the past?

- a. Nothing
- b. Water pollution
- c. The climate
- d. The muddy streets

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*

List one way Chicago today is different from Chicago long ago.

List one way Chicago today is the same as Chicago long ago.

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	c	a	c

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

Students should base their responses on the passage. They may note that living in Chicago was harder in the past. They also may note, however, that it is difficult for many families to get food today.