

Long ago, Chicago was just a small town. Families settled here, and everyone knew everyone else. That friendliness meant it was a good place for families to live. 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. But that school was the most important place in town because it helped people to learn.

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. That was a very, very dangerous way to travel, even more dangerous than when people drive and talk on cell phones today.

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. It was a much better place than it used to be.

Chicago was in a perfect 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, it was a wonderful time. Businesses opened and people started a newspaper. It was a changing place. Today everyone knows Chicago—they know it's the great city on the Great Lake.

## Contrast and Evaluate Fact and Opinion – Nonfiction

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

*Choose the best answer for each question*

1. Which word in this sentence tells you it is an opinion? So it was a good place to live.

- a. friendliness
- b. good
- c. place
- d. families

3. Which of these statements is a fact?

- a. Chicago was in a perfect place for traveling.
- b. It was both on a river and on a lake.
- c. It was a wonderful time.
- d. It's a great city on the Great Lake.

2. Which statement in paragraph 2 is an opinion?

- a. So then people built a school.
- b. People moved to Chicago.
- c. Students learned math.
- d. It was the most important place.

4. Which phrase in this sentence tells you it is an opinion: That was a very dangerous way to travel, even more dangerous than driving and talking on the phone.

- a. very, very dangerous
- b. to travel
- c. driving and talking
- d. on a cell phone

5. Choose a sentence that tells a fact in this passage.

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How do you know it tells a fact?

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### 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.*

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|--------|---|---|---|---|
| Item   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Answer | b | d | b | a |

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

Students should identify a statement of fact and explain that it tells something real.