

Uses for Rocks in Chicago

How many ways do people use rocks?

Look for rocks in your school, community, and city.

Fill in this chart with ways people use rocks.

Where people have used the rock.	How they have used it.	Why they used a rock for this purpose.

On the back of this page, explain why rocks are important to the city of Chicago.

Rocks, Ores, and Minerals: Chicago Examples

People use rocks, ores, and minerals in many ways in Chicago.
Use the dictionary to find a definition for each term.
Rewrite that definition in your own words.

rock <i>Dictionary definition</i>
<i>My definition</i>
Name of a rock people use in Chicago: _____ How people use this rock.
mineral <i>dictionary definition</i>
<i>My definition</i>
Name of a mineral people use in Chicago: _____ How people use this mineral.
ore <i>dictionary definition</i>
<i>My definition</i>
Name of an ore people use in Chicago: _____ How people use this ore.

ROCK EXHIBIT

Collect at least ten different rocks.

Look for:

A rock that looks heavy but is light.

A rock that looks light but is heavy.

A rock that is rough.

A rock that is smooth.

A rock that is shiny.

A rock that is dull.

A rock that is oval.

A rock that is rectangular.

A rock that is gray.

A rock that is brown.

Then make a rock exhibit.

For each rock, write two questions:

1. Ask a question someone can answer by looking at the rock.
2. Ask a question that someone can answer by feeling the rock.

History of a Chicago Brick

Write the story of a brick in Chicago's history.

This brick has been in Chicago for a long time.

Use this time-line to find when this brick might have been made.

Then tell its history, using events from the time-line.

- 1848 The Illinois and Michigan Canal is finished – it links the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley.
Chicago's first railroad – Chicago and Galena Union Railroad – takes its first trip.
- 1849 The government decides to plank the main city streets.
Reinforced concrete is invented (by Joseph Monier, in France).
There is a big flood, and the Clark Street bridge is washed away by the rushing water and ice.
- 1850 The Tremont Hotel, which had burned, is rebuilt of brick, not wood.
- 1853 About 20 million bricks are made in Chicago; the population is 59,130.
Chicago has 7 public schools with 3,000 students – it needs more schools.
- 1854 There are 5 brickyards in Chicago making about 91 million bricks this year.
- 1855 The city begins to raise the street level to improve drainage.
- 1856 The first wooden pavement is laid--on Wells Street, Lake Street to South Water Street.
- 1861 The Board of Education stresses manners, morals, and natural science.
- 1871 The Chicago fire destroys much of the center city.
- 1885 The Home Insurance Building is built – the beginning of the building of skyscrapers – it has an iron and steel framework.