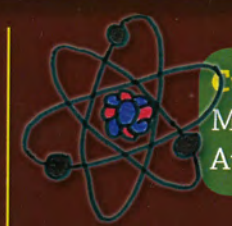


Howdy History!
Learning and
Understanding the
Truth About the Past



Current Matters
Magnets, Electricity,
Atoms, Oh My!



When Disaster Strikes
Fire Prevention and
Other Natural Disasters

June, 2012
Issue 1.

FIRE! FIRE!



The Legacy of The Great Chicago Fire

The Great Chicago Fire

- Chicago Before and After October 8, 1871
- How the City of Chicago Burned to the Ground
- Feasible Fire-starters
- How Chicago Rebuilt Itself Out of the Ashes



POLARIS CHARTER ACADEMY is centered around exploration, discovery and learning by doing. As part of an Expeditionary Learning curriculum, the Polaris third and fourth graders would like to present *Fire! Fire! The Legacy of The Great Chicago Fire.*

By conducting fieldwork, learning from experts and working collaboratively with one another, they were able to write and help illustrate this magazine. They wish to present the magazine as a resource for other students who are interested in learning about the history of Chicago and the legacy of The Great Chicago Fire.

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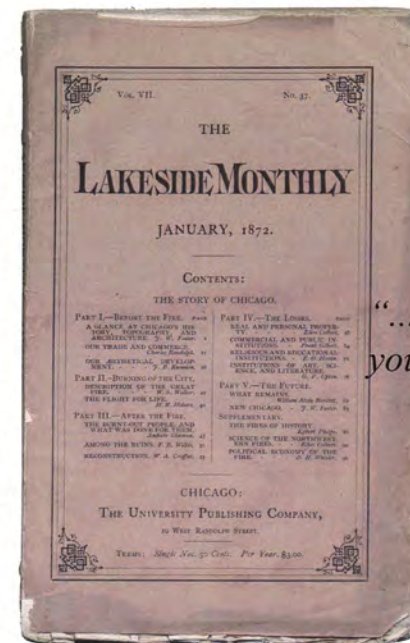


Why Does History Matter?

We all know Chicago has a lot of history, but why is it important? Why does it matter? Read this passage and you will see why history matters.

First, in the past people did important things, like when Benjamin Franklin found out about electricity. Also, some people can do great things just like some of our great presidents and active citizens like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Also, people from history encourage young kids to do great things too. Our great leaders can be good role models for us.

Second, history matters because there are important things that happened in the past. There were a lot of incidents that had happened, like how people died in the past. History matters to Chicago because Chicago has a lot of history like The Great Chicago



Lakeside Monthly Journal Telling Chicago's Story, 1872

Fire, and for our whole country World War I and II and other things that happened a long time ago, like natural disasters.

Finally, history matters to Chicago because it wouldn't feel right not knowing your own city's history and past. Also, it's interesting to learn about your city's past and about bad things *"...it wouldn't feel right not knowing your own city's history and past."*

that happened a long time ago so they do not happen again.

So, as you can see, history matters for a lot of reasons like how people celebrate the past, how people did great things and how people made the world easier and better. History matters to Chicago because we can learn from our history.

Bullying or History?

Have you ever thought the Mrs. O'Leary song could be bullying? Here are a few ways we thought of the song.

First, the Mrs. O'Leary song is bullying because people are blaming Mrs. O'Leary for something she didn't do. Also, people might not have been there to see what happened or heard from someone else.

On the other hand, it was also a military tune. They did not mean to hurt her.

Those are some ways the Mrs. O'Leary song was bullying and history.

Late one night,
when we were all in bed,
Old Mother Leary
left a lantern in the shed,
And when the cow kicked it over,
she winked her eye and said,
"There'll be a HOT time
on the old town tonight."

FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!



Norman Rockwell's Oil Painting of Mrs. O'Leary and Her Cow, 1935

What Else Matters?

Matter is what everything in the world is made of. Without matter, things in the world wouldn't exist. There are three states of matter.

One state of matter is a solid. A solid has a shape that you can see and has mass and volume. It doesn't move by itself at all. An example of a solid is a ball.

Another state of matter is liquid. Liquid is something that doesn't have a shape, but has mass and volume, also it's close together, but can slide around to fit the shape of the container it is in. An example of

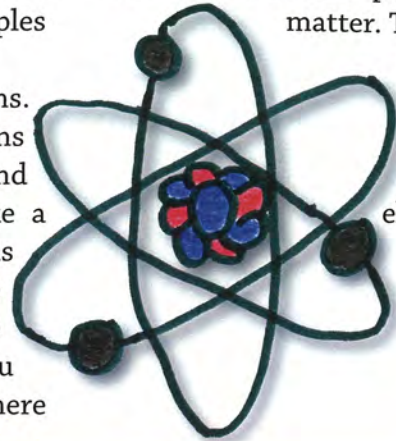
a liquid is juice.

The last state of matter is gas. Gas has mass, but it doesn't have volume or shape. Also, it can spread around very quickly. Two examples of gas are air and helium.

All matter is made up of atoms. Atoms are made out of protons (positive), neutrons (neutral), and electrons (negative). You make a neutral charge by mixing protons and electrons equally. You make a positive charge when there are more protons than electrons. You make a negative charge when there

are more electrons than protons.

Electricity is the movement of electrons. Electrons are a part of atoms. Atoms are a part of matter. That's



what matter has to do with electricity.

Electricity

Do you know what electricity is? Well, we do and we are going to tell you all about the three kinds of electricity.

The first kind of electricity is lightning. The thing about lightning is that it has electrons in it, which means that it's negative. Lightning is when clouds build up electrons and a negative charge is formed.

The second kind of electricity is static. Static is when electrons build up on an object so that it is negative. Also, static objects get negative charges when

Electricity is the movement of electrons.

electrons

build up together.

The third kind of electricity is a circuit. When electricity moves in an unbroken circle it is a circuit. Electrons flow through the circle if it is complete.

Like magnets, objects with different electrical charges attract; and electrical charges that are the same repel.

Also, there are three different kinds of circuits. There is a parallel circuit, complex circuit, and a series circuit. The three circuits all mean electrons flow through wires and go to an output device that works. Those are all the reasons why the three kinds of electricity are electricity.

All the three kinds of electricity have some things in common. When lightning hits a tree the electrons flow down. When static sticks to something electrons build up on whatever it's sticking on. When a circuit is completed, electrons flow through it. All three kinds of electricity have electrons as an important part. People should learn about electricity more often because it's important.

Who Can We Thank for the Electricity in Our Homes?

Benjamin Franklin

Do you know any famous inventors? I know two famous inventors. I'm going to talk Benjamin Franklin, but read on to learn about Thomas Edison.

First, Benjamin Franklin was born on January 16, 1706 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. When Benjamin Franklin was age ten his father was very poor, so Benjamin had to leave school. He still learned when he left school.

Then, in 1752, Benjamin Franklin proved that lightning is electricity. He did not die and did not get hurt. He made lightning rods for houses and other buildings too.

Sadly, Benjamin Franklin passed away in 1790. Benjamin Franklin was a really cool inventor.

Benjamin Franklin Studying Electricity



All About Thomas Alva Edison

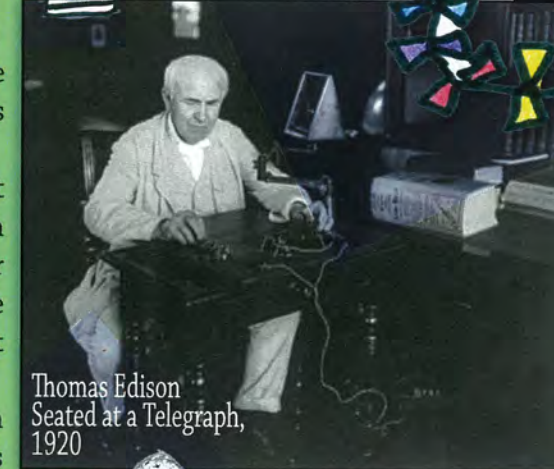
Thomas Alva Edison is a famous inventor for a few reasons.

First, Thomas Alva Edison was born on February 11, 1847. When Thomas Alva Edison was born he had a great life. Edison was very interested in science. Edison liked to investigate.

Then, in 1868, Thomas Alva Edison made light bulbs. The reason why we have light bulbs is because of Thomas Alva Edison.

Thirdly, he improved the light bulbs by making a company. Edison made his own light company after he discovered light bulbs. The company was called "Edison's Light Company."

That's why Thomas Alva Edison became a famous inventor. Thomas Alva Edison is a very interesting person to learn about.



Thomas Edison Seated at a Telegraph, 1920

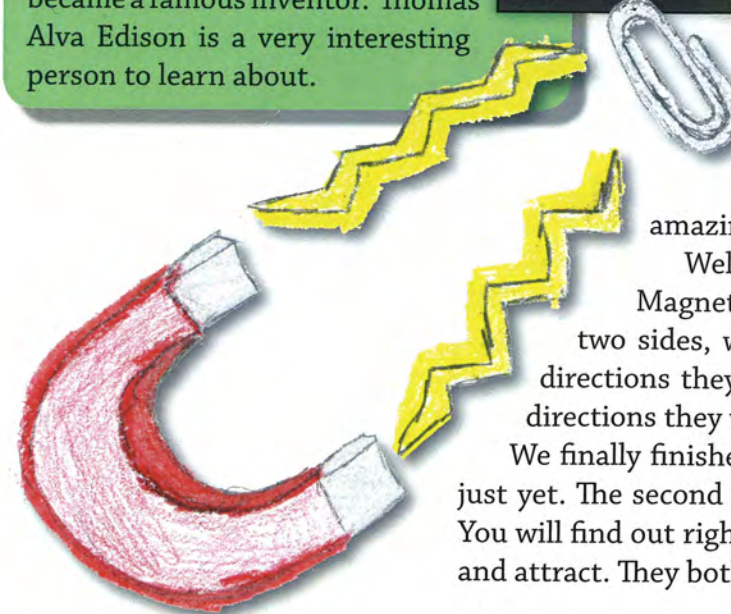
Magnets, Electricity, and Energy Rock!

Do you know the magnetic things that you use to stick papers and bills on your fridge? Just so you know, those things are called magnets! What are these amazing structures?

Well, you'll find out the answer right now.

Magnets are things that can attract and repel. Magnets have two sides, which are north and south. If they are facing the same directions they will repel (push apart). But if they are facing different directions they will attract (come together).

We finally finished the question "what are magnets?" but we're not done just yet. The second question is "how are magnets connected to electricity?" You will find out right now. Of course magnets and static electricity can repel and attract. They both use atoms to repel and attract.



FACT OR FICTION?

Is History Fact?

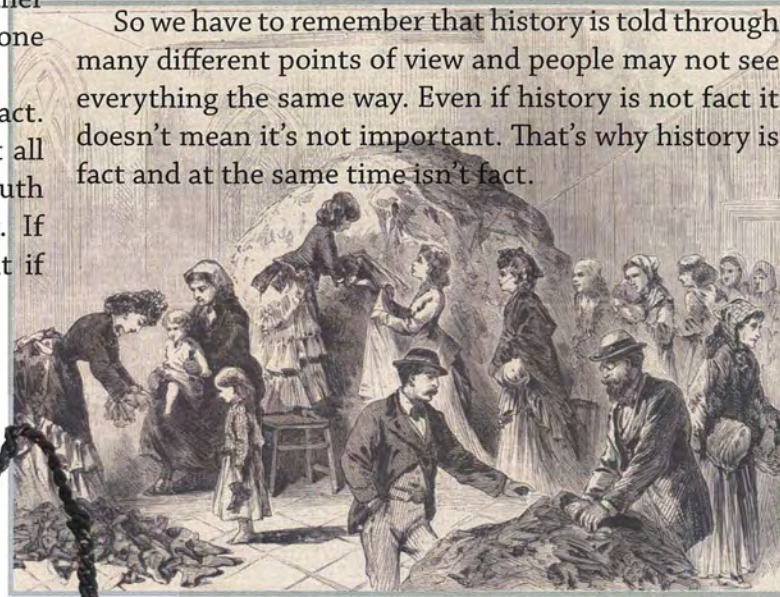
Do you think history is fact? Well, read on to see if history is fact or not!

Now here are some reasons why history is fact. History is fact because people write about real stuff. People don't just write stuff for no reason. Another reason is: who would tell a lie to the world? No one would hire a liar. People are usually truthful.

Now here are some reasons why history is not fact. Some people write about what they hear, but not all of what they hear is real. People don't tell the truth all the time. Maybe they are hiding something. If something bad happened, they might lie about it if they had something to do with it.

Not all history is fact because sometimes we may think we have all the information to prove something as fact, but then realize later on that the information we had was either false or had holes in it. Also, history is not always fact because we all have different points of view, so we tell stories differently.

So we have to remember that history is told through many different points of view and people may not see everything the same way. Even if history is not fact it doesn't mean it's not important. That's why history is fact and at the same time isn't fact.



Newspaper Illustration of Ladies Distributing Clothing to Chicago Fire Victims



Melted Ball of Marbles and Burned Pocket Watch from The Great Chicago Fire

Evidence of History!

LEARNING ABOUT HISTORY

Have you ever wondered how you can learn about things if you weren't there to see them? This passage will tell you a little bit about a fire that happened in 1871 and how we learned about it.

Also, you can learn about the fire if you look at old drawings, pictures, and paintings. Drawings and other art can help you because sometimes people draw what they've seen. Also, drawings and pictures can help you because they probably have a connection to what had happened in the fire. That's another way you can learn about the fire.

Besides that, you can learn from letters. You can learn from letters because when people write letters, the letters might tell you about their lives. Also, you can learn from letters because they might tell you about what people saw during the fire. That's another huge way you can learn about the fire.

Last, but not least, you can learn from buildings like The Water Tower. You can learn from The Water Tower because it is still standing after the fire. That is another way you can learn about the fire if you weren't there to see it.

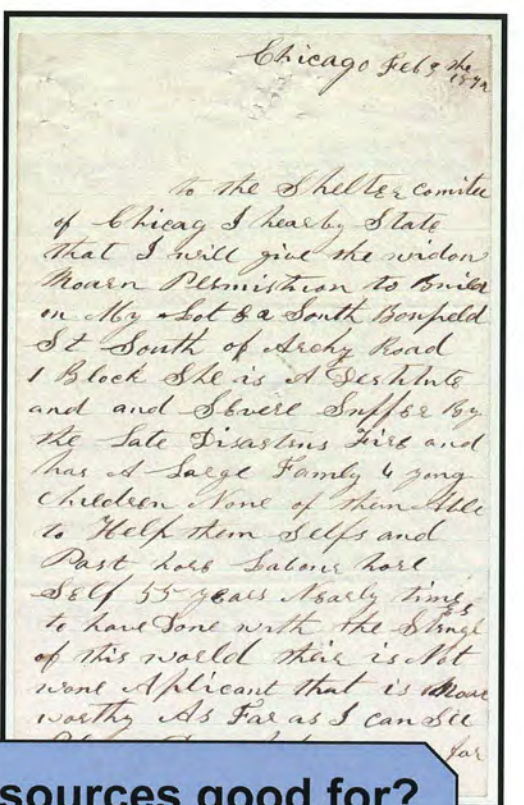
Sometimes people won't be there for an event but know a lot about it. For example, if you didn't know what The Great Chicago Fire was you would use all your

resources to find out about it, like books, art and letters. That's how you can learn about the fire, if you weren't there to see it.

What's a primary source?

A primary source is something someone went through or saw for themselves, then wrote about it exactly after it happened. For example, my aunt's diary is a primary source because right after something happens she writes it down.

Letter of Relief for Suffering Family After the Fire, 1872



What are primary sources good for?

Primary sources are good for getting real information because the person who was there wrote it.

What's a secondary source?

A secondary source is something someone wrote long after it happened or if they weren't there for the event but wrote about it anyway. For example, Rosa Parks Freedom Rider by Keith Brandt and Joanne Mattern is a secondary source.



Anniversary of The Great Chicago Fire; from The Chicago Daily Tribune, 1872

What are secondary sources good for?

Secondary sources are good to back up things from another person who was at the event, if the other person doesn't tell every piece of information that happened.

Why are these sources important?

Primary and secondary sources are important because people want to learn more about history and they want to learn more about heroes in history.

Before Chicago

Native Americans

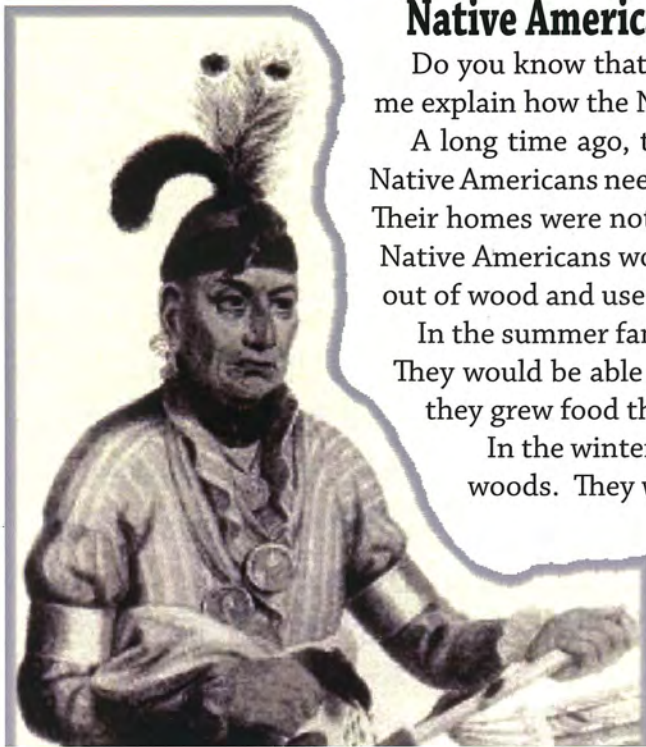
Do you know that Native Americans lived on the land now called Chicago? Let me explain how the Native Americans settled here.

A long time ago, there were really huge grasslands where Chicago is now. The Native Americans needed the grasslands in order to have space to build their homes. Their homes were not like ours. They had dirt floors, but it was decent for a home. Native Americans would build their homes together. They would build the homes out of wood and use animal skins, too!

In the summer families would relocate to a village near a river and build homes. They would be able to join their friends and family in the summer village. Also, they grew food there by planting vegetables in the summer.

In the winter, they would leave the summer village and build homes in the woods. They would use branches to make a kind of tent and then cover the walls with the skins of animals to keep the house warm. The homes were very large so that a family could have several people in one home. In the winter, Native Americans would track rabbits, and there would also be deer to hunt.

Wow! Native Americans had many tough tasks!



Chief Walking Turtle (1736-1833),
Winnebago Tribe of the Wisconsin Region

**But When Did
Settlers Arrive?**

DuSable Makes His Mark

a trading post. He traded boats, horses, fur and tools with others.

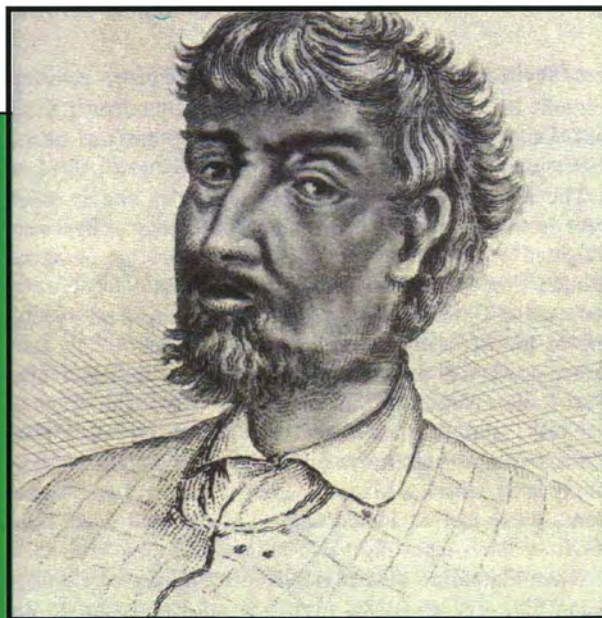
DuSable moved to St. Charles, Missouri and died there in 1818. At that time Chicago was a growing city and he helped create it. He

died when he was 73 years old, and he's an important part of Chicago history everyday.

Many people called DuSable different names like the father of

Chicago. Why? Because he was one of the first settlers to come here. The Native Americans also called him the black Frenchman because he was black and he came from France. His full name was Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, and he was very famous.

He was such a big part of Chicago that they not only named him the Father of Chicago, but they named a park DuSable and a museum, too. You can go to his park if you want!



Did you know that Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable was one of the first settlers to come to Chicago? Do you want to know what he did? DuSable made his own store called

LIFE IN THE 19TH CENTURY



THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Do you know how hard life was in the 19th century? Now you are about to learn how tough life was in the 1800s!

In the first place, everyone understands that life was hard in the 19th century. Now, I'm just going to focus on one idea and that is chores. People had to wake up very early. Some had to wake up as early as 5:00 in the morning to do their chores. Today we don't have to wake up at 5:00 to do our chores.

In the 19th century, the girls had different chores than we do now. Girls had to churn butter and grind corn. We don't have to churn butter now, because our mom goes to the store to buy butter.

Some boy chores were fetching water and chopping wood. Nowadays, we don't have to go to the lake to get water. We go to the store and buy a full case of water. Also we don't chop wood down, because we build many things out of brick, too.

Additionally, they wore totally different clothes from us today. Girls wore dresses to school and especially to church. Boys had to wear suspenders. They also did not have many outfits. They had one for church and another one was for play and school. Nowadays, we have plenty of outfits. We have a lot of clothes for school and plenty for play and church. Clothes are another reason life in the 19th century was totally different from today.

Why Settle Chicago?

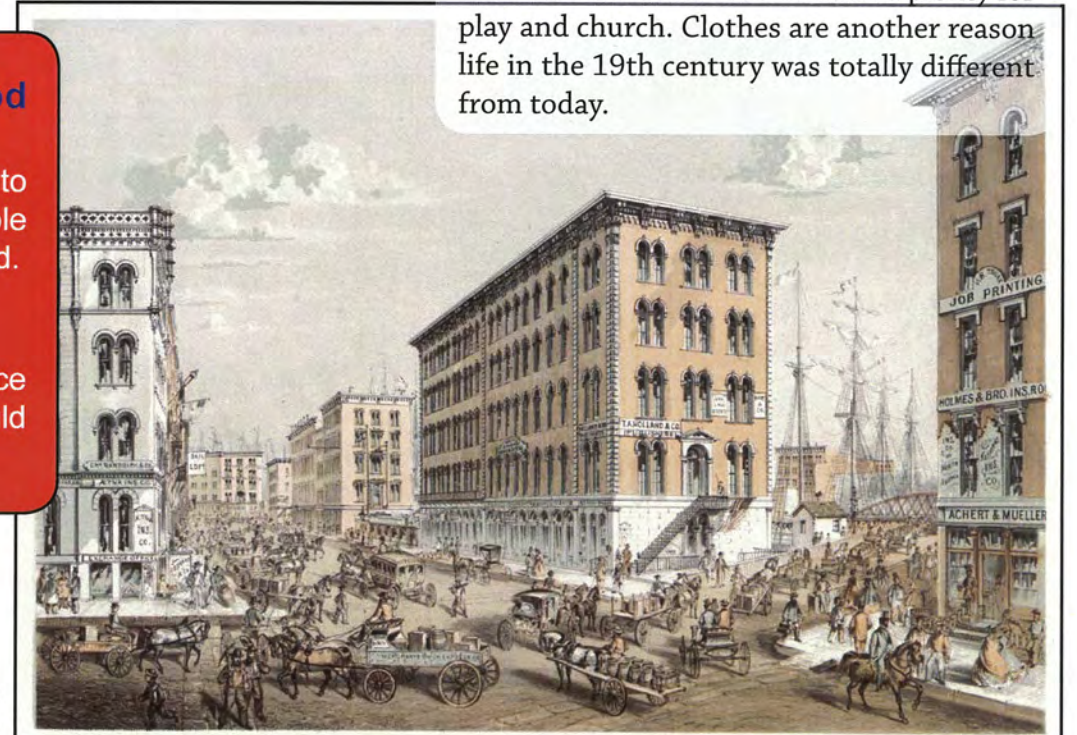
"There's no place like home sweet home."

- **Land provides good food for us.**

There was a lot of land to plant food on, so people could grow their own food.

- **You can sell fur.**

Chicago was a good place to settle because you could use fur for clothes.



Corner of Clark and Water Streets,
1866-67

OCTOBER 8-10, 1871

THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE

The Fire Department

Have you ever wondered what the police chief and fire watchman did during the Great Chicago Fire, starting at 8:30 p.m. on October 8, ending 4:00 a.m. on October 10 in 1871 in Chicago?

The watchman's name was Schafer and the person who sent firefighters was named Brown. The way it worked was Schafer would scan Chicago. Then, if he found a fire, he would tell Brown the number of the firebox he thought was closest to the fire. Brown would go to that firebox and pull the lever. Firefighters would then rush to the area and start searching for the fire.

The thing was, Brown spotted the Great Chicago Fire about 30 minutes (half an hour) before Schafer, but didn't pull an alarm. This caused firefighters to get to the scene too late, because at 9:00 p.m., the fire was too big to fight.



Fire Engines Used During The Great Chicago Fire

Red Firebox Used as an Alarm to Alert Firefighters of Surrounding Fires



You may be wondering, "What about the police chief?" Well, your answer's here. As the fire got close, the police chief wrote a note to the jailers that said to evacuate the building, to make sure the prisoners didn't die because it would be cruel if you let them die in a fire.

Unfortunately, the jailers couldn't keep track of them in the huge crowd. Why did the chiefs do what they did? They did it so Chicago would be safe.

Mayor Roswell Mason's Note Ordering the Release of Prisoners



Fireboxes

At 8:30 P.M., October 8, 1871, in Chicago, Illinois at the courthouse and a drugstore, some people made mistakes that made The Great Chicago Fire last longer.

Let's start with alarms not being pulled. First, there was a firebox REALLY close to The Great Chicago Fire. The alarm could've been pulled, but wasn't. Next, there was a drugstore owner named Bruno Goll who had the key to a nearby firebox. William Lee (somebody who lived near Mrs. O'Leary's barn) told Bruno to pull the alarm, but Bruno refused. For both, if they had pulled the alarm, the fire would've been smaller.

Conditions in Chicago: A Recipe for Disaster

The conditions that made the fire so bad are a big part of what helped spread the fire.

The wind was a big part in the fire. The wind blew the fire farther. The wind blew the fire from building to building. The wind made the fire stronger than ever.

Second, the drought was also a big part of the fire. The drought made the soil dry. The plants didn't get enough water to live. That made them flammable. The drought lasted 3 months in a row. That's a second reason the fire got so bad.

Everything was made out of wood and that's what made the fire get worse. Wood is flammable so it can easily get on fire and that's what made Chicago burn so bad. If Chicago didn't have those conditions that night, the fire wouldn't have been so disastrous.

CHICAGO REACTS

What would you do if there was a very bad fire growing and you could not stop it? Here are some things that happened to the citizens in Chicago when the fire broke out.

When The Great Chicago Fire came it began to knock houses down and it began to end lives.



Rush of Fugitives Through the Potter's Field

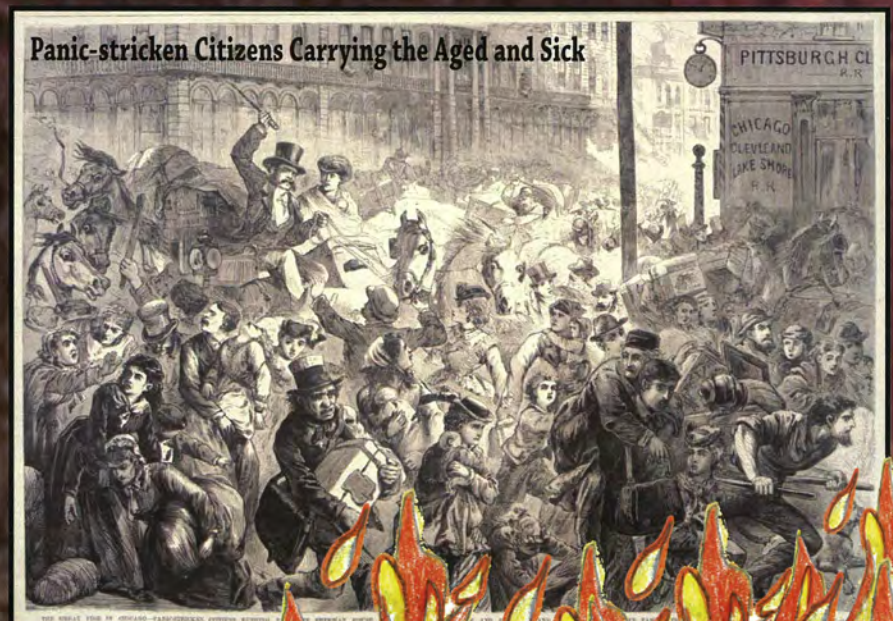
The first thing people did when fire broke out was pour water to save close things that meant a lot to them. People tried to put water on the house so their house would not burn. If you have a home you want keep your home so you would keep pouring so your home would not catch fire.

After they found out pouring water was no use, they went north. The first reason they went is to go away from the fire so they could stay alive because I know most of those people had big dreams. Sadly, they went north and the fire went north

and that was putting their lives in danger and that is not good.

After their second plan didn't work, they went to the cemetery. They went to the cemetery because there were no trees so that means the fire had nothing to burn. There was stone and stone is really hard to burn and it is strong and that means there was no fire in there so that was good. Last but not least why they went to the cemetery is because there was a lot of space, which means more people can live and be safe from the fire. Some people ran to the lake to get away from the fire. Some people lost homes and valuables and they did not have lives anymore.

The Great Chicago Fire was a disaster for people. People had not planned when the fire broke out, so they tried many ways to save their lives. Remember, always be prepared.



Panic-stricken Citizens Carrying the Aged and Sick

WHO'S TO BLAME?

FOR THE FLAME...

The McLaughlin Party

I don't know who, but someone at the McLaughlin party had to have started The Great Chicago Fire. The McLaughlins were neighbors of the O'Learys and had a party the night of October 8. Some people from the party escaped to Mrs. O'Leary's barn. A partygoer must have made a mistake and dropped a match in the hay, and hay is flammable, so the fire got out of control because there was so much hay. The people at the party should not have been in Mrs. O'Leary's barn. This is how some people think The Great Chicago Fire got started.

"Peg Leg" Sullivan

Daniel Peg Leg Sullivan was a man who lived across the street from the O'Leary's barn. Some people think he started the fire because his story didn't make sense. It all may have started on October 8, 1871 by Daniel Peg Leg Sullivan. Some think he went into the O'Leary's barn, smoked, and dropped the match on the hay.

During his testimony on November 25, 1871, Daniel claimed that he went across the street to see the O'Learys, then went right back past his own house and sat in front of William White's house. When he was there, he claimed that he saw the fire break out on October 8, 1871. He said that he attempted to save the animals in her barn and warn Kate O'Leary that a fire was going on in her barn.

There were a couple of things wrong with his testimony. First of all, he said that he sat in front of the White's home. He

claimed he saw the fire break out at the O'Leary's barn, but that's not possible because the Dalton's house is blocking the view Daniel had.

Another reason why Peg Leg Sullivan might have started the fire was because he said he ran 193 feet from the White's House to the O'Leary's Barn. Since he had a wooden leg, it would have taken him at least 5 minutes to get there. He couldn't have gotten there in time to save the cow on a wooden leg. His story doesn't make sense.

A long time after the fire police put pressure on him and frightened him. Sullivan said he did it, but no one knew if he told the truth. Some thought he confessed because of pressure the investigators put on him. They should have asked him more questions to get the truth. Then the O'Leary's wouldn't have gotten blamed.



Mrs. O'Leary

For a long time people thought that Mrs. O'Leary & her cow started the fire. Mrs. O'Leary was blamed because a reporter made up a story. His story was the cow kicked the lantern over. The lantern was lit and when the cow kicked the lantern over, oil got on the wood and hay. Then, the hay burned up. The cow kicking the lantern over was made up, but that's how Mrs. O'Leary was blamed for starting The Great Chicago Fire.

After the fire, people blamed it on the O'Learys without thinking. People should think before they blame anybody because the O'Learys were hated. They had to move away from Chicago.

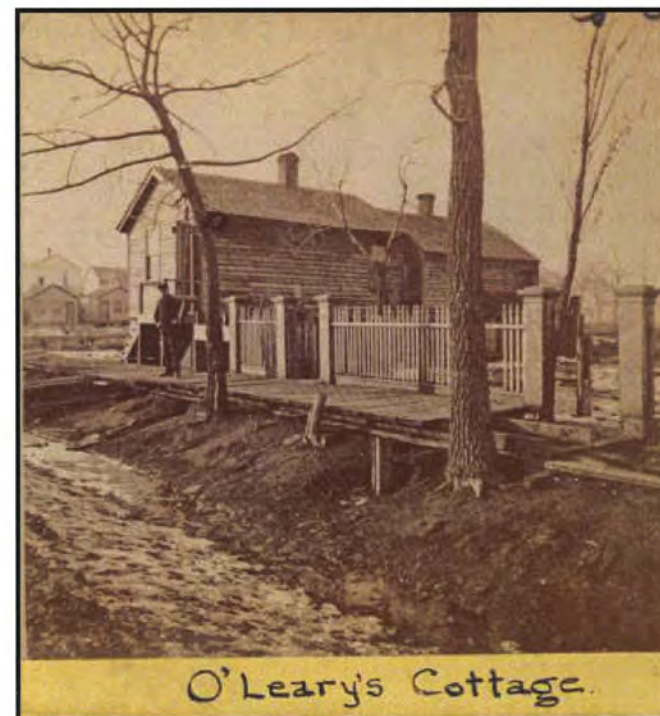
THE GREAT PESHTIGO FIRE

The Great Peshtigo Fire happened the same day The Great Chicago Fire happened, October 8, 1871.

The winter had been dry and during the summer, there was no rain, so the land was cracked because it was so dry. The forests were dry. Tree trunks and branches cracked easily. Everything was dry so the fire caught easily.

Back then farmers and loggers would burn down trees. They wouldn't put their fires out. There were a lot of trains, and the sparks from the train tracks would cause fires. On the other hand, a lot of people say that the Peshtigo fire, The Great Chicago Fire, and a fire in Holland, Michigan all happened on the same day, same year, so it could be a comet that started these 3 fires. No one knows if they were caused by humans or if they were natural disasters.

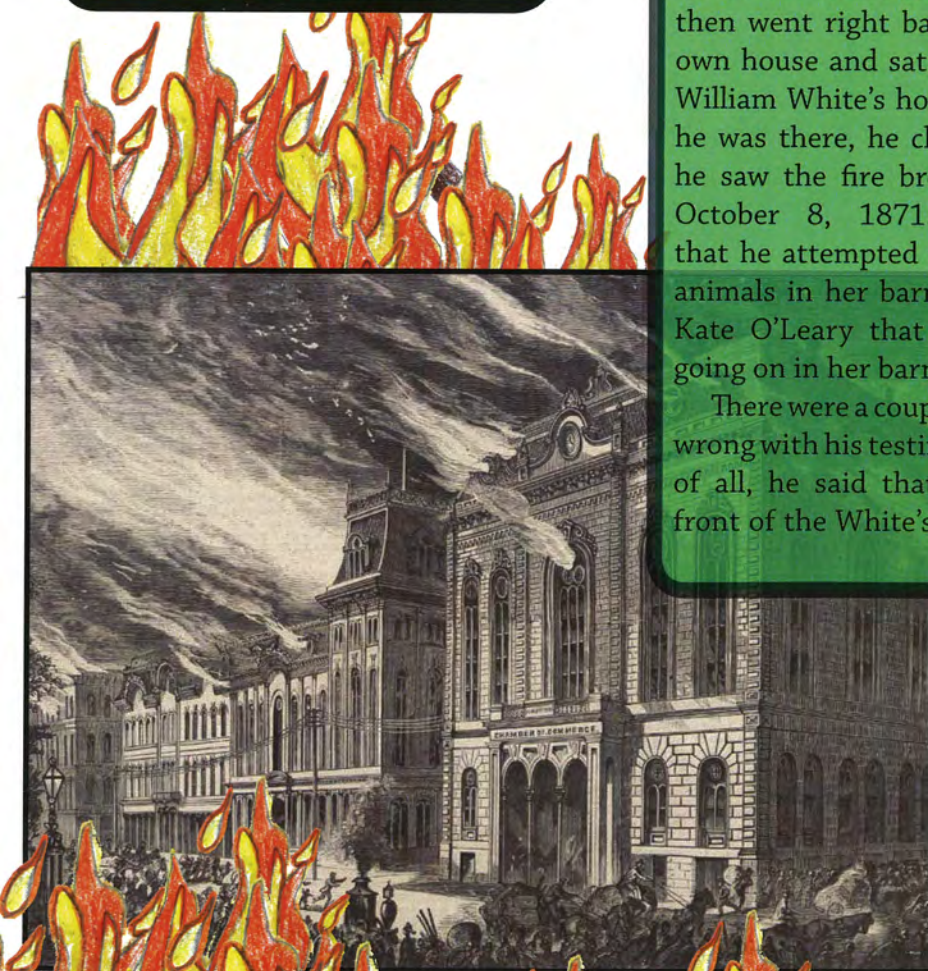
The Peshtigo Fire burned a lot of buildings in Wisconsin. In Chicago 200 people died and in Wisconsin 1,500 people died. People talked about Chicago more than Wisconsin because in Wisconsin there were only workers and Chicago was a big fancy city. Because of these multiple fires, in 1944, the U.S Forest Service created Smokey the Bear. Smokey still gives tips on how to prevent forest fires to this day. That is how we honor the people of Peshtigo.



O'Leary's Cottage

The Cottage of Patrick and Catherine O'Leary Escaped the Flames

Burning of the Chamber of Commerce



CHICAGO DESTINED TO BURN

Did you ever make a mistake? Well, I'm going to tell you what people could learn from The Great Chicago Fire.

First, I'm going to tell you why a city should not just be made out of wood, so let's get started. The whole city was made of wood. Almost all of the houses were made of wood. Even the sidewalks and streets were made of wood. That is one reason the fire spread quickly. Don't

fire the night before. This made it very hard to put The Great Chicago Fire out.

Then, they needed more water because the water was part of the equipment and they needed to pump the water out. It would have helped if the firefighters and city were more prepared.

Next, I'm going to talk to you about why it is important to not give up. Firefighters gave up because they thought that the fire was out of control. Plus, the firefighters did not have the equipment and water they needed. They should not have given up, but we also know it's not the firefighters' fault.

The last fact I learned from the fire is that it's better to be safe than sorry. The fire was burning, but some people refused to pull the alarm. It

is also important to be prepared for fires, and many people were not!

Now as you can see, never ever keep dry leaves around especially when there is a drought. Also, never make a city out of just wood. Additionally, make sure the firefighters are prepared. Last but not least, never give up! These are just a few facts I learned from the mistakes made during The Great Chicago Fire!

View from Court House
Cupola, North, 1858



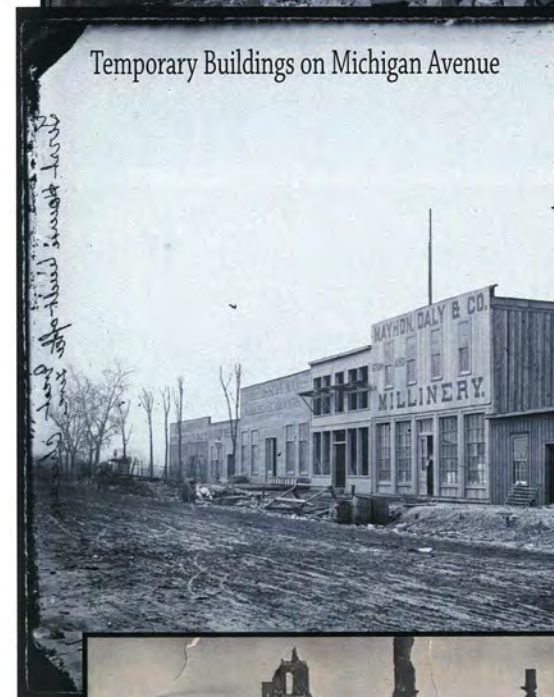
ever build a city out of just wood, because it can burn down!

Next, I'm going to talk to you about the dry city. Everything was really dry, because there was a drought. A drought is when everything is dry, because it has not rained in a while. There were many dry leaves. Dry leaves burn; so no wonder the city burned down. Cities should be careful.

Next, let me tell you about how the city was not prepared for a fire. The firefighters were really tired because they had to put out a fire the night before. Cities need to have more firefighters and more equipment. A lot of the firefighters' equipment had broken down when they were trying to put out the



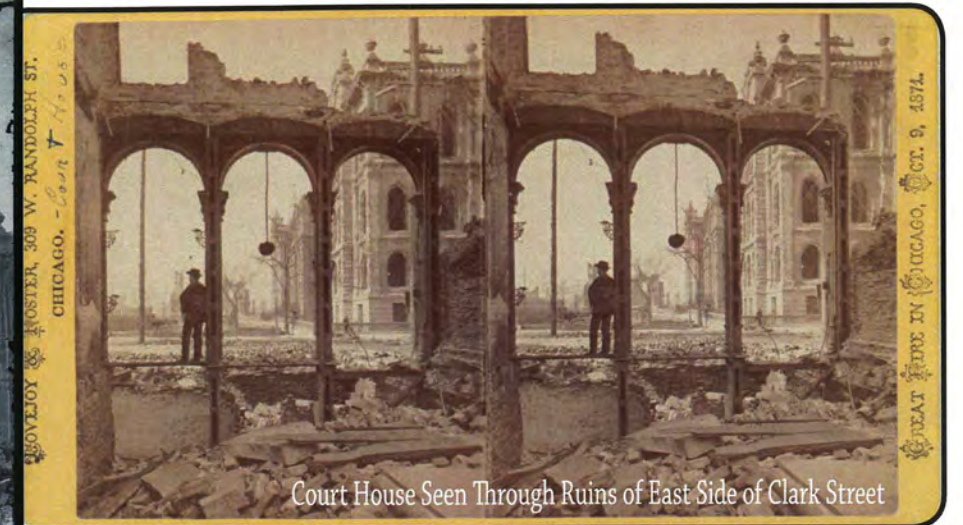
Ruins of the Chicago Court House



Temporary Buildings on Michigan Avenue



Corner of State and Madison After the Fire

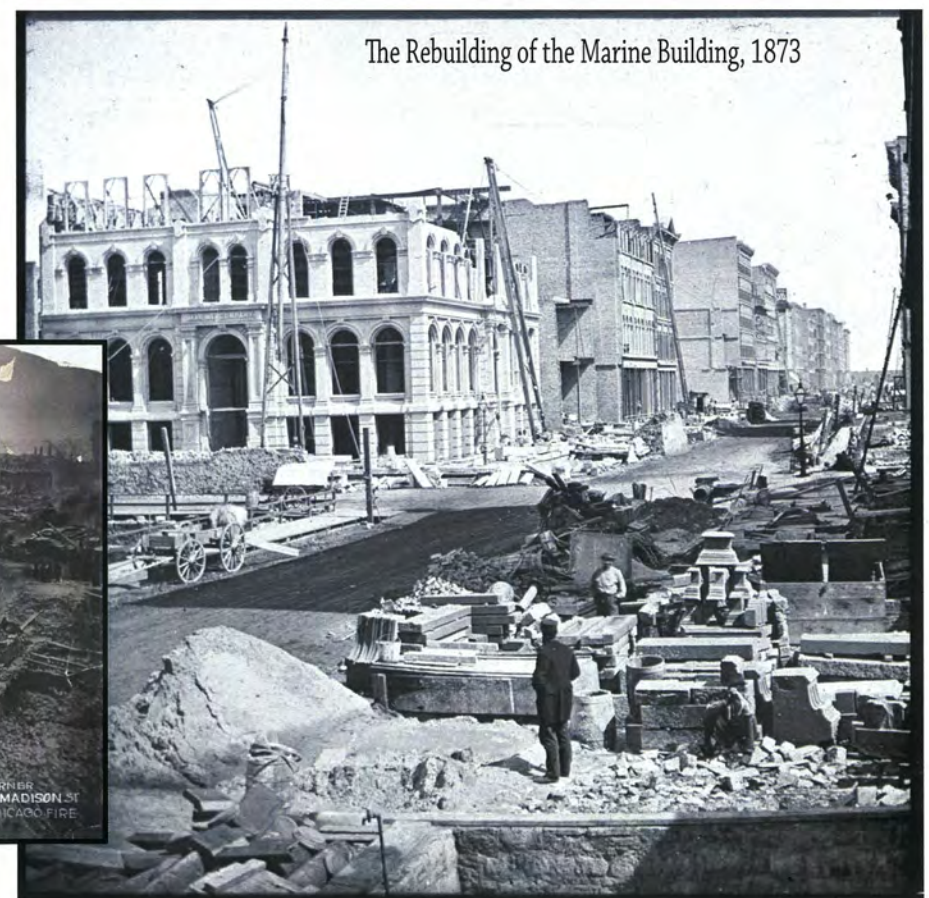


Court House Seen Through Ruins of East Side of Clark Street

The Damage

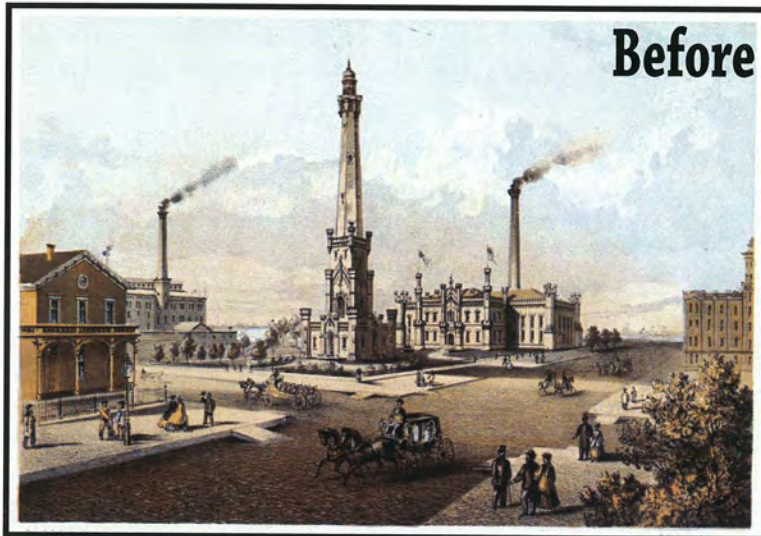
Do you know how much damage The Great Chicago Fire caused? First of all, 2,000 acres of land were burnt down. That is really, really big! That is as big as 2,000 Field Museums. Can you imagine? Two thousand Field Museums gone? That's a lot.

Second, the people had to pay \$200,000,000 in property damage. They had to save all of their money. That was really hard because they were poor. Last but not least, the fire left 90,000 people homeless. This made a lot of people sad, the homeless people and their families, too. Wouldn't you be sad if this happened to you?



The Rebuilding of the Marine Building, 1873

CHICAGO REBUILDS



Before



After

The Water Tower

The Water Tower was one of the only buildings that survived The Great Chicago Fire. The Water Tower was built in 1869. William W. Boyling designed the Water Tower. It was made out of limestone. The water tower was built for drinking water and for the firefighters to use to put out fires. The water tower survived because it was made out of brick that didn't catch fire.



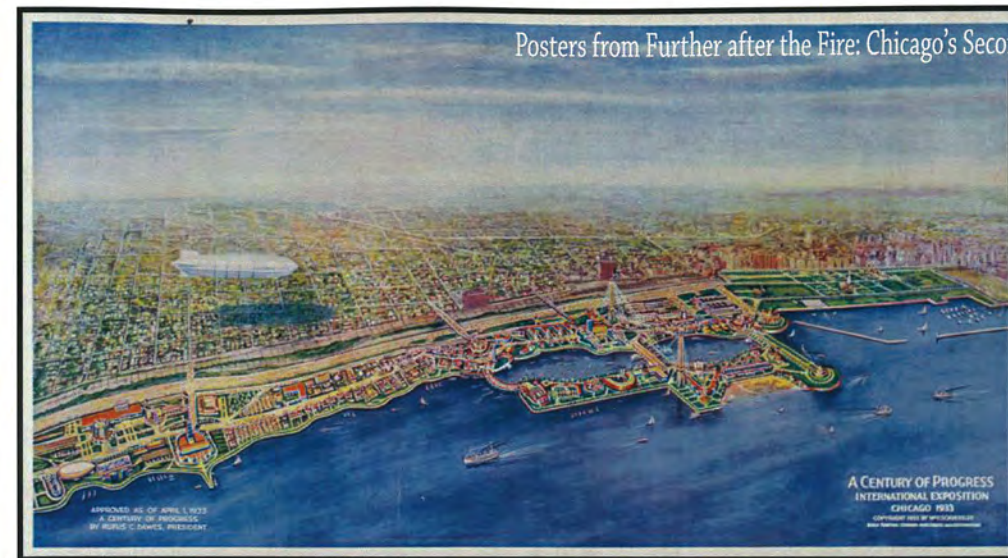
Poster from The Chicago World's Fair of 1893

Administration Building at The Chicago World's Fair



The Chicago World's Fair of 1893!

What do you know about the World's Fair of 1893? To begin with the fair was up and running in Chicago for six months. People from all over the country visited the World's Fair. Last but not least, the World's Fair is also called: THE COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION! Also, the World's Fair had many artifacts for people to look at. Wow, the World's Fair must have been amazing!



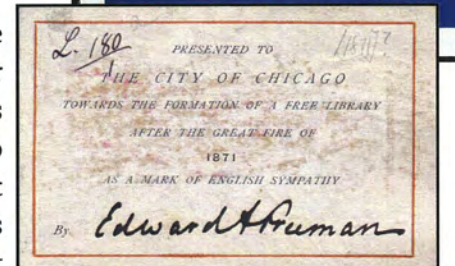
Posters from Further after the Fire: Chicago's Second Great Fair, "A Century of Progress," 1933-34



The First Public Library

Do you want to know where the books came from in order for Chicago to have a public library? After the fire, people wanted to help Chicago. People from England donated the books to Chicago. The person who donated most of the books was an author himself. You might be wondering what his name was? Well his name was Thomas Hughes. He helped build the library by donating all of those books.

Do you want to know some little facts about when our first public library opened its doors? It cost \$2 million to build the first Chicago Public Library. Eight thousand books were donated! Before that library, the people got their books by horses delivering them to the people who wanted books. In regular libraries back in the day you had to pay for your books.



Since this public library happened, you now get your books for FREE!!!

Skyscrapers

I'm a skyscraper lover! Do you know what skyscrapers have to do with Chicago? Skyscrapers matter to Chicago because everything burned down during The Great Chicago Fire. The city had to rebuild all of its buildings! Many people came to Chicago after the fire to build skyscrapers. People needed jobs. A lot of people came here to get the job of building skyscrapers.

Skyscrapers are really, really tall buildings. They are so tall, they look like they

touch the sky. That's where the name skyscraper comes from. They look like they scrape the sky!

The skyscrapers were made vertical, because there was nowhere to go but straight up toward the clouds. They were making the buildings tall instead of wide. The steel frames used on the skyscrapers were an ingenious idea. As you can see, that's why skyscrapers were built after The Great Chicago Fire.

Why Did People Move to Chicago After the Fire?

After The Great Chicago Fire, the city needed help. The city was very damaged, but Chicago was determined to rebuild it. Chicago had tons of jobs. For example, the Swedish people needed jobs, because some of them were poor. Chicago was in a blackened state, so they came here to work fast to get the city up and running.

Beep!

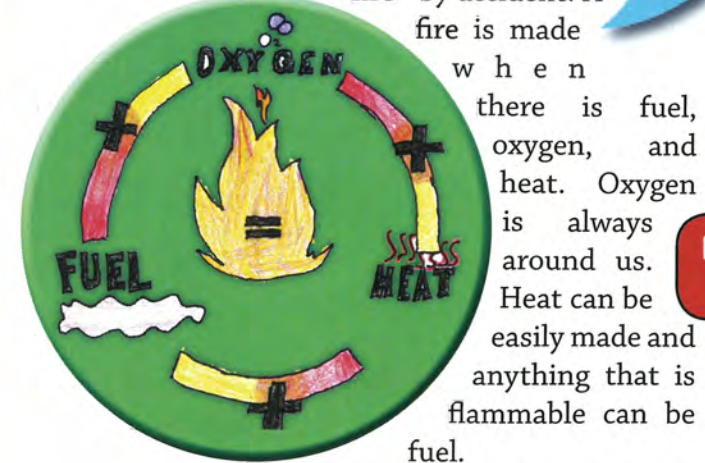
Beep! Beep! Beep! Beep! The smoke detector goes. Have you ever stopped to think about ways to prevent a fire from happening? Well, if not, stop now and read this article! There are many ways to prevent a fire; this article is going to explain 3 of those ways.

One way to prevent a fire is to make sure there is nothing that is flammable by an open flame. The

word flammable means that it can catch on fire easily. Therefore, it is important to make sure that objects that are flammable stay far away from any type of fire source, like a stove.

Another way to prevent a fire is by making sure children never ever play with anything that can cause a fire, like matches. This is important because sometimes children don't understand how dangerous things are and might start playing with the match and then bam! . . . something catches on fire.

Lastly, make sure that you know how a fire is made to make sure you will never make a fire by accident. A



In order to be safe and to make sure you never create a fire by accident, make sure to set flammable things far away from a flame and don't let children play with matches; it is also important to learn how a fire is made. These three things will help keep everyone safe.

If any part of your body is ever on fire, STOP, DROP, and ROLL. This will help put out the fire.

What Would You Do?

And Then There Was fire!

And then there was fire! Do you know how to stay safe from a fire? If not, read on to learn about some important steps to take to stay safe if there was ever a fire at your school or home.

One way to stay safe from a fire is to make sure that every room in your house and school have their own fire alarms. It is so important to have fire alarms, because it can warn you if there is a fire somewhere in your house or school. Make sure to check your house and school for fire alarms that work!

Another way to stay safe from a fire is to have an evacuation plan. An evacuation plan is a plan on how to exit a building safely. It is important to have an evacuation plan because it tells people where to go to reach safety. It is also important to have an evacuation

If you see smoke, FALL and CRAWL until you are away from the smoke.

plan so you can know where to meet your family or members of your school in an emergency.

Lastly, it is important to know where a fire extinguisher is located in your house and school. A fire extinguisher can put out small fires. If you ever accidentally start a small fire, a fire extinguisher can help you put it out before the fire gets out of control.

And then there was fire! If that's the case, you now know three ways to stay safe from a fire. Just remember to make sure you have fire alarms, an evacuation plan, and a fire extinguisher.



Natural Disasters

A natural disaster is the effect of the earth's natural hazards

For Example . . .

Crack! Crack! An Earthquake!

Do you know what an earthquake is? Well, an earthquake is a natural disaster. This article is going to explain how an earthquake is formed and the effects an earthquake can have on our world. Please read on to learn all about earthquakes!

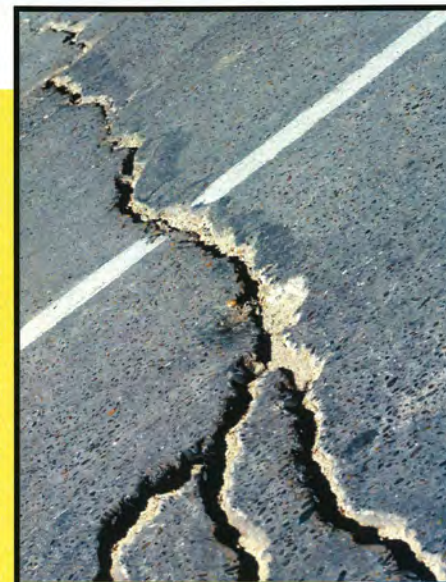
In order to understand how earthquakes are formed, you first must understand tectonic plates.

A layer of the earth's crust is separated into different plates, or pieces. These pieces, or plates, are called tectonic plates. The place where two tectonic plates meet is called a fault. Okay, now that you know what tectonic plates are, you will be able to understand how earthquakes are formed.

Earthquakes are formed when two tectonic plates collide into each other. When the two plates rub into each other they cause waves of energy to travel through the ground, which causes an earthquake. Earthquakes are also formed when a huge amount of pressure builds up at a fault line. Earthquakes are considered to be a natural disaster because they naturally occur. Humans do not have any control over them. They just happen.

Earthquakes can range in size and in power. Some earthquakes can be so powerful that they can crack a cement road in half. These types of earthquakes can have a big effect on our world. They can cause a lot of destruction by causing buildings and roads to collapse. They can also cause tsunamis. Other earthquakes will just cause the ground to shake a little bit.

It is important to understand how earthquakes are formed and the effect they have on our world, because you never know when an earthquake might hit!!!



Result of the Earthquake in Santiago, Chile in 2010

Tsunamis

Do you know what a tsunami is? Here's a hint: they are powerful natural disasters. If you want to learn more, keep reading!

A tsunami is a huge, powerful wave. Tsunamis are interesting because they are often caused by earthquakes in the ground under the sea.

Tsunamis can also be caused by volcanic eruptions and landslides. Even though tsunamis are interesting natural disasters, they can also be very scary and damaging to our Earth.

Tsunamis can be so large and so powerful that they can wipe out trees, cars, and even houses! They can be very deadly. Tsunamis can cause so much damage that it can take years and lots of money to repair the damage that they cause.

Now you know a little more about the tsunamis. Don't forget that they are not only natural disasters, but they are often caused by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and even landslides.



The Remains of a House After the Earthquake and Tsunami in Banda Aceh, Indonesia



Many illustrations and photographs referencing Chicago's history and The Great Chicago Fire have been made possible by the generosity of The Chicago History Museum.

For more information about Polaris Charter Academy, please visit us at pcachicago.org.

What Did You Learn About Chicago?

What was life like before The Great Chicago Fire? _____

Would you have liked to live in Chicago in the 19th Century? Why or why not? _____

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Fire! Fire! The Legacy of The Great Chicago Fire
R. Berger Archive
Polaris Charter Academy

List 4 reasons The Great Chicago Fire got so out of control: _____

In what ways did Chicagoans help rebuild their city in 1871? _____

How would your life be different if The Great Chicago Fire had never happened? _____

Use this magazine to help you find all of the listed words in this WORD SEARCH!

- Chicago
DuSable
O'Leary
lantern
alarm
fire engine
pump
mistakes
damage
rebuild
Water Tower
skyscraper
- map
Benjamin Franklin
Thomas Edison
prevention
fire
cow
ashes
Peg Leg
wood
drought
Peshtigo
cemetery
- World's Fair
public library
history
primary
secondary
sources
electricity
lightening
matter
magnets

A	T	A	R	A	W	N	G	C	U	T	M	N	B	R	O	A	C
M	G	W	E	H	P	O	H	E	P	N	A	V	E	M	N	A	E
F	S	N	Y	U	A	I	O	R	L	R	T	B	N	S	K	I	M
R	A	O	M	R	C	T	W	D	T	G	T	I	J	M	N	P	E
R	R	P	A	A	A	N	O	S	I	D	E	S	A	M	O	H	T
E	N	I	G	N	E	E	R	I	F	B	R	P	M	G	N	N	E
S	K	O	N	S	W	V	L	I	G	H	T	N	I	N	G	A	R
S	E	T	E	L	H	E	D	'	N	R	E	T	N	A	L	Y	Y
S	M	H	T	I	R	R	'	I	O	R	H	E	F	A	S	R	A
R	K	M	S	A	E	P	S	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y	A	A	E
L	C	Y	I	A	W	W	F	F	E	G	A	M	A	D	I	M	T
N	N	E	S	S	O	P	A	P	O	G	R	H	N	R	B	I	T
R	E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	I	T	Y	O	K	I	B	R	L
E	U	B	C	Y	R	A	R	B	I	L	C	I	L	B	U	P	U
P	O	A	R	C	E	A	K	C	R	E	B	U	I	L	D	C	A
A	D	S	U	T	T	I	P	E	S	D	B	A	N	O	R	M	D
M	A	U	O	I	A	R	M	E	S	H	E	N	N	S	D	H	I
G	U	D	S	C	W	M	C	D	R	O	U	G	H	T	C	I	L