

From the Civil War to World War I: The Gilded Age “Chicago Style”

Essential Understanding: The transformation of the United States from a primarily agrarian society in the late 19th century to a predominantly urban society in the early 20th century, using the growth of Chicago as the primary focus.

Skills: geography, research, story-telling

Essential Question: What would your life have been like and what would you have experienced if you were born in Chicago in 1840 and ultimately died as a Chicago resident at the ripe old age of 70 in 1910?

Resources: chapters 13-17, World Wide Web, other library resources

Create a life-long timeline for your character from the day you were born until the day you die. Your timeline must include the following:

- 1) Details from when you were born. Must include:
 - a. your specific birth date in 1840 and an actual place of birth in Chicago or surrounding area (evidence)
 - b. a story of how your family happens to live in Chicago (must work)
 - c. specifically where you will grow up over the next several years (evidence)(1 DAY IN LAB, 12 TOTAL POINTS)

- 2) Information about your adolescence through 1860. Must include:
 - a. the extent of your education (evidence)
 - b. any early jobs through age 20 (any major job must have evidence)
 - c. a story about if you are single or married (that works)(1 DAY IN LAB, 12 TOTAL POINTS)

- 3) Life during the Civil War (1861-1865). Pick 2:
 - a. your service in the Union (evidence)
 - b. a job in Chicago that has connections to the Civil War (that works)
 - c. a story of family loss due to the war (that works)(1 DAY IN LAB, 12 TOTAL POINTS)

- 4) Life after the Civil War (1865-1900). Must include:
 - a. your return to Chicago with a family update (that works)
 - b. your career in Chicago. Pick 1:
 - i. career with industrial job (evidence)
 - ii. career in the meat-packing industry (evidence)

- iii. career as inventor/innovator (evidence)
 - iv. career in politics (evidence)
 - v. career in business (evidence)
 - vi. another career that fits (evidence)
 - c. your experience with the 1871 Chicago Fire (evidence)
 - d. your experience with the 1893 World's Fair (evidence)
 - e. your experience with reversing the Chicago River in 1900 (evidence)
- (2 DAYS IN LAB, 20 TOTAL POINTS)

5) Life in Chicago (1865-1900). Must include:

- a. growth of railroads in Chicago (evidence)
 - b. growth of the cattle industry in Chicago (evidence)
 - c. physical changes to Chicago (evidence)
 - d. technological changes in Chicago (evidence)
 - e. immigration in Chicago (evidence)
- (2 DAYS IN LAB, 20 TOTAL POINTS)

6) Life at age 60. (1900) Must include:

- a. update of your family (that works)
 - b. retirement from your job (that works)
- (1 DAY IN LAB, 8 TOTAL POINTS)

7) Your Life at the Turn of the Century (1900-1910). Pick 3:

- a. changes in entertainment (evidence)
 - b. changes in sports (evidence)
 - c. changes in shopping/advertising/selling goods (evidence)
 - d. reforms in politics and government (evidence)
 - e. your feelings about President Teddy Roosevelt (refer to specifics about what he did as president)
- (1 DAY IN LAB, 12 TOTAL POINTS)

8) Your Death (1910). Must include:

- a. how you died and who you leave behind (final update of family)
 - b. a reflection of what you have witnessed during your life
- (1 DAY IN LAB, 8 TOTAL POINTS)

ASSESSMENT

There are 25 parts in this assignment. The assignment will be worth 100 points. That means each entry in your timeline is worth 4 points.

Each category is due at the end of that lab session. A printed copy must be turned in. A penalty will be assessed if it is turned in late. Any absence issues will be re-scheduled quickly.

For entries that require (evidence), you must provide factual information and sources to back up your story.

example: if you decide to have a factory job, find a company that actually existed in Chicago at that time.

For entries that have (that works), your story must fit the context of Chicago at that particular time.

example: if you explain how your family came to Chicago, keep in mind the types of travel that existed at that time

Failure to support your timeline entries properly will result in loss of points.

Entries may be fixed-up and re-submitted to make up lost points (except for late penalties).