

December 3, 1818

Illinois Becomes a State

The state of Illinois has a long and interesting history. Illinois attracted many farmers in the days of the pioneers moving west. Eventually, the areas grew to the point that there was an adequate population to apply for statehood. Illinois officially became the twenty-first state of the Union on December 3, 1818. Abraham Lincoln lived in Illinois and became the nation's sixteenth president. The state sent many soldiers to fight for the Union in the Civil War, although there was some sympathy with the Confederacy in the southern part of the state. After the Civil War, Illinois grew quickly, and became one of the most progressive states during the late 1890s to the early 1900s.

Look at the map of Illinois below. Label the capital of Illinois. Locate the cities of Chicago, Bloomington, Peoria, Rockford, Decatur, Danville, Joliet, and Aurora and label them on the map. Also, locate Lake Shelbyville, the Illinois River, Kaskaskia River, and the Illinois and Mississippi Canal and label them. Now label the states that border Illinois and the natural borders of the state. When you have finished, move on to the timeline of Illinois history on the next page and the research prompts that follow



Timeline of Illinois History

Fill in the timeline with the correct events for each year from the list on the next page.

1673

1717

1763

1778

1787

1804

1809

1818

1820

1830

1832

1837

1848

1853

1858

1861

1871

1893

1959

2005

1. The Lewis and Clark expedition starts near Wood River
2. Sauk and Fox tribes are defeated in the Black Hawk War
3. Marquette and Jolliet arrive in Illinois
4. Abraham Lincoln elected President of the U.S.
5. Illinois is made part of the Northwest Territory
6. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum opens
7. Springfield is chosen as the new capital of Illinois
8. After the French lose the French and Indian War, Illinois becomes a possession of England
9. St. Lawrence Seaway opens
10. Abraham Lincoln's family moves to Illinois
11. Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas debates are held during campaign for the Senate
12. George Rogers Clark captures Kaskaskia from the British during the Revolutionary War
13. The Chicago Fire destroys much of Chicago
14. Illinois becomes part of the French settlement of Louisiana
15. First Illinois State Fair occurs
16. Vandalia becomes the capital of Illinois
17. Illinois becomes a state
18. Illinois and Michigan Canal completed
19. Chicago World's Fair
20. The Territory of Illinois is started

Research Prompt #1

When was Chicago first settled? Why was its location advantageous for trading as people were moving west? How did it rebuild after the Chicago fire? Write about the history of this amazing city.

[illegible]

Research Prompt #2

Do a little research on the businesses that decided to make their starting headquarters in Chicago in the 1800s. Choose one and write about how the company came to be, why it built headquarters in Chicago, and its history up to the present day.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Research Prompt #3

Research the World's Columbian Exposition that was held in Chicago in 1893. What types of exhibits were there? What new ideas were shown to the public? What would a day at the fair have been like?

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Timeline of Illinois History

Answer Key

Marquette and Jolliet arrive in Illinois	1673	
	1717	Illinois becomes part of the French settlement of Louisiana
After the French lose the French and Indian War, Illinois becomes a possession of England	1763	
	1778	George Rogers Clark captures Kaskaskia from the British during the Revolutionary War
Illinois is made part of the Northwest Territory	1787	
	1804	The Lewis and Clark expedition starts near Wood River
The Territory of Illinois is started	1809	
	1818	Illinois becomes a state
Vandalia becomes the capital of Illinois	1820	
	1830	Abraham Lincoln's family moves to Illinois
Sauk and Fox tribes are defeated in the Black Hawk War	1832	
	1837	Springfield is chosen as the new capital of Illinois
Illinois and Michigan Canal completed	1848	
	1853	First Illinois State Fair occurs
Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas debates are held during campaign for the Senate	1858	
	1861	Abraham Lincoln elected President of the U.S.
The Chicago Fire destroys much of Chicago	1871	
	1893	Chicago World's Fair
St. Lawrence Seaway opens	1959	
	2005	Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum opens