



Chicago Flag



INSTRUCTOR NOTE

Set the stage for students by telling them that you are going to read them a short introduction about the Chicago flag. Flags tell stories in a kind of code. The colors and designs on flags represent important people, places, and events. Countries, states, and cities have official flags to express pride in their heritage. During this lesson, students will learn to understand what the symbols on the Chicago flag represent. Then they will have the opportunity to make their own Chicago flag. Prior to reading the introduction, review the following vocabulary words with students.

Vocabulary

sights—buildings, statues, fountains, and parks that people like to look at

represent—to stand for

topic—a subject

Narrative

Did you know that you are a Chicagoan? That means you are a person who lives in Chicago! As a Chicagoan, you have a lot to be proud of. Chicago is the third largest city in the United States, right behind New York and Los Angeles. People from all over the world visit Chicago to see our famous sights, including museums, buildings, restaurants, and neighborhoods. Many of our buildings were designed by the most important architects of the twentieth century. We have legendary sports teams and the world's busiest airport. **1 What are some facts you know about Chicago's past and present?** Do you know the name



Narrative

and occupation of our first non-Indian permanent settler? Do you know how the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 started? You are going to learn the answers to these questions and more.

Let's start discovering Chicago's stories by learning about our city flag. But before I show you a picture of the Chicago flag, I want you to tell me what you know about the United States flag. **2 What colors are on the United States flag? What do the stars and stripes on the United States flag stand for?** The stars and stripes are symbols. A symbol is a shape or design that stands for something. A symbol tells you what it means without words. For example, in public places like airports, the outline of a girl or boy on a door stands for men's or women's washrooms. People see the picture and know what is behind the door without reading any words. Like the United States flag, Chicago's flag has symbols on it. The Chicago flag looks like this:



3 What are the symbols you see on the flag? This flag lets you know all the things we are going to learn about our city. One star represents Fort Dearborn. The next star represents the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. The other two stars represent the World's Fairs of 1893 and 1933. The blue stripes represent Lake Michigan and the branches of the Chicago River. The three white stripes represent places where people live: Chicago's neighborhoods on the North, South, and West Sides.

We are going to learn a lot about Chicago. **4 Why do you think it is important to learn about Chicago?** It is important for you to learn about Chicago for many reasons. First of all, you are a Chicagoan. You should know what makes your city different from all the other cities in the world. To know what makes it unique, it is important to learn about its history. But it is also important to think about today and what makes your neighborhood special for you. We are going to do all that and more. Let's start by making our own Chicago flag!

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