

Joseph's Railroad Dreams

Lesson 3: Railway Map

Focus Questions

What transportation pathways connected Chicago regionally and nationally? What did the railroads carry to and from Chicago? Why was Chicago an important transportation hub?

Core Understandings

Students will understand that the railroads had a major impact on the development of Chicago and the United States. They will understand why Chicago's geographic location and features made it a trade and transportation hub.

Knowledge

Students will know that the railroads played a prominent role in the development of Chicago as a city and the United States as a country. They will know some of the 19th- and 20th-century railway lines that connected Chicago to the rest of the country as well as what those trains carried.

Skills

Students will use their collective and independent research skills to uncover information, make observations, and draw comparisons between the past and the present. They will use their language arts skills to interpret the past and explore different historical perspectives.

Common Core ELA Standards

CCSSR1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCSSR7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

ISBE Social Science Standards

Goal 15: Understand economic systems, with an emphasis on the US.

Goal 16: Understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of Illinois, the US, and other nations.

Goal 17: Understand world geography and the effects of geography on society, with an emphasis on the US.

In This Lesson

By exploring the history of the railroad lines passing through Chicago, students will understand the substantial impact they had on the development of the city and the United States as a whole. The story element of setting is addressed. This lesson was researched and written by Hollie Ware.



Activity

Begin the lesson by reading aloud the first chapter of *Joseph's Railroad Dreams*.

http://www.chicagohistory.org/greatchicagostories/pdf/story/Josephs_Railroad_Dreams_by_Kris_Nesbitt.pdf

Then read aloud the background information about Chicago and the railroads.

<http://www.chicagohistory.org/greatchicagostories/transportation/background.php>

As a class, brainstorm a list of what trains carry and why trains are so important.

Next, view a map of the United States, brainstorming with students why Chicago's location would help make it a transportation hub.

Afterward, distribute the student handout "Development of Railroad Lines from Chicago" (see end of lesson). Divide students into two groups. Have one group read and highlight the **locations** the train lines traveled to. Assign the other group to read and highlight **what each train carried**.

Have volunteers from group one mark the destination points on the map with pushpins; enhance the activity by having students connect the pushpins with colored yarn. Have volunteers from group two add words and/or images of what each train carried. The map will aid students in seeing how far people and products could travel.

Materials & Resources

- **Printouts of the *Joseph's Railroad Dreams* narrative:**
http://www.chicagohistory.org/greatchicagostories/pdf/story/Josephs_Railroad_Dreams_by_Kris_Nesbitt.pdf
- **Printouts of the *Joseph's Railroad Dreams* background information:**
<http://www.chicagohistory.org/greatchicagostories/transportation/background.php>
- **Map of the United States**
- **Pushpins**
- **Sticky notes**
- **Colored yarn** (optional)

Instructional Notes

By the end of this lesson, students should understand the impact railroads had on Chicago's development. It would also be valuable to discuss why trains are still important today by showing modern Metra and CTA maps and/or Amtrak schedules.

Extension Activities

Have students make an advertisement for the great uses of the train.

Reading suggestions:

The Railroad by John R. Matthews

Early Railways by Rodney Dale

America's First Railroads by Tim McNeese

Railroad Fever by Monica Halpern

Handout: Development of Railroad Lines from Chicago

| Railroad Line | Connected Chicago to... | What the Train Carried |
|--|---|---|
| Chicago & Alton Railroad | St. Louis | People |
| Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe | The Southwest | Cattle, freight, people |
| Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (The B&O) | Pittsburgh and Baltimore | Farm products; manufactured goods |
| Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad | Kansas City, Denver, Fort Worth, California | Farm products, especially grain |
| Chicago Great Western Railway | Iowa and St. Paul, Minnesota | Corn |
| Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railway | St. Louis and Evansville, Indiana | People |
| Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific | Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota | Grain, people |
| Chicago & North Western Railway | Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota | People, raw materials, manufactured goods |
| Chesapeake & Ohio Railway | Cincinnati | Coal from the Ohio Valley |
| Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific | Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota | People |
| Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway | Northwest Illinois | Freight |
| Erie Railroad | New York | Freight |
| Grand Trunk Western Railroad | Canada | Freight |
| Illinois Central Railroad | St. Louis, Memphis, New Orleans | People, especially during the Great Migration |
| Monon Line Railroad | Indiana, Kentucky | Indiana limestone, coal |
| New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad | New York, Ohio | Freight |
| New York Central System | New York, Michigan, Ohio, Canada | Freight, people |
| Pennsylvania Railroad | Pittsburgh, New York | Freight, people |
| The "Soo" Line | St. Paul, Upper Michigan, Canada | Farm products |
| Wabash Railroad | Toledo, St. Louis, Kansas City | Farm products, freight, people |

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