

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

Design and Build

READ:

Chicago is famous for its architecture which is the design and construction of building. The very first skyscraper in Chicago was called The Home Insurance Building which was constructed in 1885. This building was supported by a steel frame, which meant that it could get much taller than using just brick or stone. When it was finished in 1890 it was 12 stories and 180 feet tall. The Home Insurance Building set the standard for new building methods and modern skyscraper construction. The group of engineers and architects who worked on developing these new ideas on how to construct tall buildings became so famous, they were known as the Chicago School.

DO:

- **Look** at the photos of famous Chicago skyscrapers and what makes each building so special. Circle the things you like in each building. Check out some of the more recent additions like Aqua and Vista Tower online!
- **Sketch** your own idea for a new skyscraper to add to the Chicago skyline.
- **Build** a model of your skyscraper with building toys.
- **Test** your model skyscraper. Can it stand up to Chicago's famous winds? If you have an electric fan put your model in front and see what happens, or wave a notebook or folder up and down like a fan.

Approx. Time: 30—45 minutes

Materials:

- ⇒ Pencil/Pen
- ⇒ Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- ⇒ Building Toys

SHARE:

- **Post** pictures of your skyscraper design and test model on social media with the hashtag #CHMatHomeFamilies.



Lithograph of the Home Insurance Building, Chicago, Illinois. Designed by William LeBaron Jenney. IHCi-00091

Take a Look — Circle details you find interesting.



HB36275-G

Aon Center: Formerly known as the Standard Oil Building was finished in 1974. It has 83 stories and stands 1,136 feet tall. When completed it was the world's largest marble-covered building. Unfortunately, the marble began to crack in the early 1990s. The entire outside of the building was re-done with granite.

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Marina City: Built in the 1960s, Marina City features two 587 feet tall towers built out of reinforced concrete. It's unique designs gives each apartment a rounded balcony off the living room and bedroom. This building also has a parking garage, restaurants and even a marina where people can park their boats!

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Take a Look — Circle details you find interesting.



HB31216 K3

825 N. Michigan Ave (formerly the John Hancock Center): Finished in 1968, it is 100 stories and stands 1,127 feet tall. This building is famous for its support beams which form an X pattern on the outside of the building. In some apartments these X-braces make looking out the window a little difficult.

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Take a Look — Circle details you find interesting.



HB37525 J

Willis (Sears) Tower: Finished in 1973, it is 110 stories and 1,450 feet tall. Famous for its stepped design, today millions of people visit to experience the Skydeck. Visitors to the Skydeck can step out on to 4.3 foot glass ledges that extend out of the building! From the Ledge, you can look 1,353 feet below to the city.

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