

# ChicagoHistoryMuseum

## 'L' Stands for Elevated

### READ:

In 1892 the first elevated or "L" train opened. By 1893, the Chicago and South Side Rapid Transit Railroad ran from the Loop to Jackson Park, the site of the World's Fair of 1893. Over the years, more companies added their own train lines. Today, the system is run by the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and has eight different lines (now all named for colors) that allow people to travel across the city and even into some suburbs. There are 35.8 miles of elevated track. In the "Loop" the downtown portion of the "L" the tracks are between 13 feet 3 inches tall, and 19 feet, 4 inches tall. The L is important because along with bus routes and subway stops, it helps people get to work, to school and to recreation all over Chicago.

### DO:

- **Look** closely at the images of "L" car No.1. What details do you notice in the pictures? How is "L" car No. 1 different from train cars today? What questions do you have from looking at the images?
- **Play** the "L" car game! Cut out the Answer cards and the Question cards. Mix each set up. If you are playing with a family member, each of you should take one set. The person holding the questions, can read one aloud, and the person holding the answers can find the right match. Go through the cards until you are finished. Or if you are playing alone, spread the cards out and match them up. Use the answer key to see how you did.
- **Make** your own "L" car out of supplies you have at home. Use an empty box or fold construction paper into a rectangle. Draw on the outside of your car to make it look like L Car No. 1 from 1892, or imagine what a train car of the future might look like.

**Approx. Time:** 30—45 minutes

#### **Materials:**

- ⇒ L Car Game
- Questions & Answers
- ⇒ Construction Paper
- ⇒ Craft Supplies
- ⇒ Drawing Supplies

### SHARE:

- **Post** pictures of your L Car Game and your L model on social media with the hashtag #CHMatHomeFamilies.



South Side Elevated Train with steam engine, 1893.

ICHi-005394

**'L' Car Number 1 — Outside View**



**'L' Car Number 1 — Inside View**



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# 'L' Car Game — Question Cards

<p>Q: How many pounds does the 'L' Car weigh?</p>	<p>Q: How many seats does the 'L' Car have?</p>
<p>Q: How many years was 'L' Car No. 1 in use?</p>	<p>Q: How tall is 'L' Car No. 1?</p>
<p>Q: In what year did 'L' Car No. 1 carry passengers to the World's Fair?</p>	<p>Q: How long is 'L' Car No. 1?</p>
<p>Q: How much did a ride on the 'L' cost when it first began running?</p>	<p>Q: How fast did 'L' Car No. 1 travel?</p>

# 'L' Car Game — Answer Cards

A: 42,000

A: 48

A: 50

A: 13

A: 1893

A: 46

A: 5

A: 15

# 'L' Car Game — Answer Key

A: 15 miles per hour

Q: How fast did 'L' Car No. 1 travel?

A: 5 cents

Q: How much did a ride on the 'L' cost when it first began running?

A: 46 feet

Q: How long is 'L' Car No. 1?

A: 1893

Q: In what year did 'L' Car No. 1 carry passengers to the World's Fair?

A: 13 feet tall

Q: How tall is 'L' Car No. 1?

A: 50 years

Q: How many years was 'L' Car No. 1 in use?

A: 48 seats

Q: How many seats does the 'L' Car have?

A: 42,000 pounds

Q: How many pounds does the 'L' Car weigh?