

## History at Home for Teens

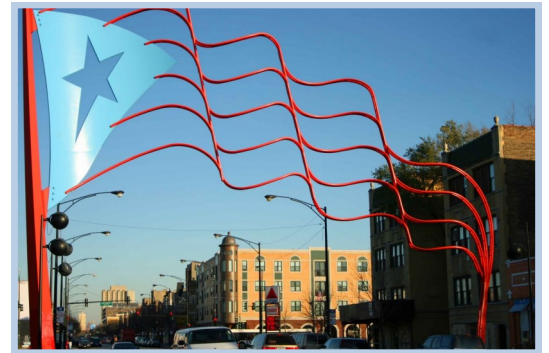
### Weekly Project 4: Exploring Chicago's Neighborhoods—Humboldt Park

Much like Chicago's other seventy-six community areas, [Humboldt Park](#) has a diverse history of immigration. Starting in the 1870s, Danish and Norwegian immigrants moved into the area as the city expanded west. Germans, Scandinavians, Polish, and Russian Jews soon followed in the coming decades, and their influence can still be seen in statues, architecture, and landmarks throughout the neighborhood. By the 1960s, Humboldt Park became home to a growing [Puerto Rican](#) community. As the center of Puerto Rican culture in Chicago, it is now known as *Paseo Boricua* and *La Division*. *But like many communities of color in Chicago, Puerto Ricans faced constant harassment and unfair treatment by the police.*

On June 12, 1966, after the first-ever Puerto Rican Pride Parade, Chicago Police patrolman Thomas Munyon shot twenty-year-old Aracelis Cruz, sparking a wave of protests that would give a voice to the Puerto Rican community in Chicago. It was on *La Division* that Munyon fired at Cruz, and which gave its name to what came to be known as the [Division Street Riot](#)—three days of unrest during which thousands of Chicago's Puerto Rican residents protested, sixteen people were injured, and nearly fifty arrested.

The Division Street Riot was the “first major urban Puerto Rican riot in the history of the United States,” but it was not the only disturbance in Humboldt Park. Chicago's Latinx communities were accustomed to discrimination, hardship, and neglect, and following the 1966 riot, a second disturbance on June 4, 1977, began over the same issues.

Following the Puerto Rican Day parade in 1977, it is alleged that police arrived at Humboldt Park to break up gang-related fighting, but there are conflicting accounts between police and community members. Two young Puerto Rican men were ultimately shot in the back and killed, prompting protests from the community. This led to a day and a half of protests and confrontation with police.



One of the two Puerto Rican flag gateways on Divisions Street. ([Paseo Boricua](#))

In response to both these demonstrations and their aftereffects, the Humboldt Park community organized to advocate for more community civic involvement. They wished to address the continued tension between police and the Puerto Rican community, as well as difficulty getting adequate housing, jobs, and access to healthcare, among other concerns. Many community organizations in Humboldt Park are still fighting for solutions to these issues.

What did the streets of Humboldt Park look like after the 1977 Humboldt Park Riot? Take a look at some of the images and practice your primary source image analysis skills!

### Instructions:

- ◆ Check out the primary source images from our [Chicago Sun-Times Photograph Collection](#).
- ◆ Using the image analysis guide, think about what you are seeing and make some historical inferences.
- ◆ Using these images, the brief intro text above, and the resources throughout the text in blue, think about some of the signs or banners that you would imagine seeing during the protests in Humboldt Park.
- ◆ Share your creations on social media or on our [Google Classroom](#) page.

To share with us, upload your creations using your phone, computer, or other device using the Google Classroom app. You can also share your story on social media (Twitter and Instagram @chicagomuseum, Facebook @chicagohistory) tagging us and using #historyathometeens!

**[All activities can be done from your phone! Just follow the blue hyperlinks to the materials/pages!](#)**

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### Additional Activities

#### Humboldt Park's Murals with a Message

Much like Pilsen, Humboldt Park is also a neighborhood with vibrant murals that provide social and political commentary on issues affecting the community. The question of identity is something that many Puerto Ricans in Chicago have tried to answer in a variety of ways, with art and murals being one of these methods. The murals found on Humboldt Park's buildings and in public areas speak to the displacement, police harassment, and marginalization of this community. In addition to addressing injustices, many murals highlight important events in Puerto Rican history, both on the island and in Chicago.

Explore some of the murals in Humboldt Park. How are they similar and different to the ones in Pilsen?

#### Instructions:

- ◆ Check out the murals found through [Humboldt Park](#) and [Pilsen](#).
- ◆ Write down your thoughts on what you see as you explore some of the murals. Use your journal!
- ◆ Check out the cool interactive map of some of the murals found throughout all of Chicago! (Look at the bottom of this [article](#))
- ◆ Share your thoughts with us!



Mural "Our Story of Resilience" by Luis Raúl Muñoz.  
(Ashlee Rezin-Sun-Times )

### Journaling

Journaling is a great way to record events as they are occurring and are often used by historians when they are conducting research. Keeping a journal is also a great way to share your own thoughts, reactions, feelings, and observations of your surroundings and the things you are learning about!

Consider keeping a journal of your experience during this pandemic, to not only record your experiences with the pandemic, but also of all the exciting, fun, and new things you may be doing and learning! You can use a notebook, your notes app on your phone, and/or a document on your computer.

Feel free to share any of your entries that you are comfortable sharing! Or share with us your thoughts on keeping a journal during these times and how you are journaling, so as to inspire others!

### Share With Us!

To share with us, upload your responses from your computer or from your phone through the Google Classroom App, through the submit assignment button. You can also share your creations on social media (Twitter and Instagram @chicagomuseum, Facebook @chicagohistory) tagging us and using the hashtag #historyathometeens!



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Scenes from Humboldt Park after the riot. Neighborhood residents walk the streets and take stock of the damage, Chicago, Illinois. 1977. (ST-10103785-0012, Chicago Sun-Times collection, Chicago History Museum)



## History at Home for Teens



Firemen remove debris and the body of Claudio Domingo Torres from the ruins of a grocery store at 2650 West Division Street. Residents of the neighborhood watch the firemen and point out other scenes of post-riot destruction, Chicago, Illinois. 1977. (ST-10103782-0035 , Chicago Sun-Times collection, Chicago History Museum )



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**Firemen remove debris and the body of Claudio Domingo Torres from the ruins of a grocery store at 2650 West Division Street. Residents of the neighborhood watch the firemen and point out other scenes of post-riot destruction, Chicago, Illinois. 1977. (ST-10103782-0059, Chicago Sun-Times collection, Chicago History Museum )**

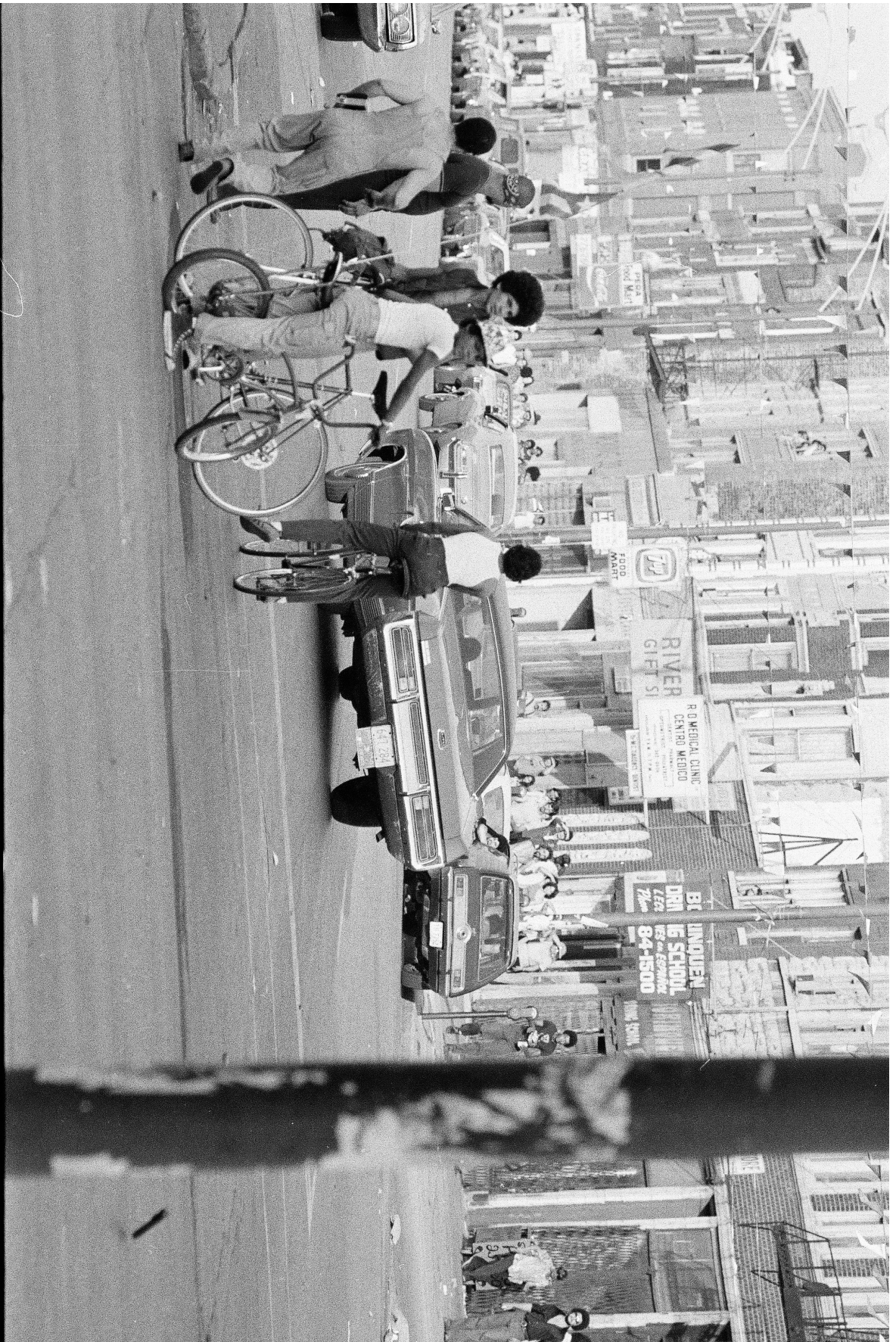


## History at Home for Teens



Police and rioters in Humboldt Park, Chicago, Illinois. 1977. (ST-10103784-0011, Chicago Sun-Times collection, Chicago History Museum)





**Police and rioters in Humboldt Park, Chicago, Illinois. 1977. (ST-10103784-0013, Chicago Sun-Times collection, Chicago History Museum)**



## Image Analysis Guide

Image	What is going on in this image?	What do you see that makes you say that?	What questions do you still have?
#1			
#2			
#3			



## Image Analysis Guide

Image	What is going on in this image?	What do you see that makes you say that?	What questions do you still have?
#4			
#5			

Consider these questions after reading about the Humboldt Park Riots and seeing the images. Jot down your thoughts in the space below and share with us! @CHMatHomeTeens

1. What is the difference between a riot, a protest, and civil unrest? Can you think of examples of each?
2. Do the streets of Humboldt Park look like what you expected streets to look like after a "riot"?
3. What would cause people to protest/riot?