

Exploring the Exhibition

Names:

The exhibition is split into four sections, the Wooden City, the Burning City, the Smoldering City, and the Rebuilt City. Use this guide to help you explore each section and complete the associated activity.

Section 1: The Wooden City

See how Chicago was built in 1871 and meet the diverse people who lived here.

Look at the "Will it burn?" area, and answer the following:

What flammable material surprised you the most? _____

Why? _____

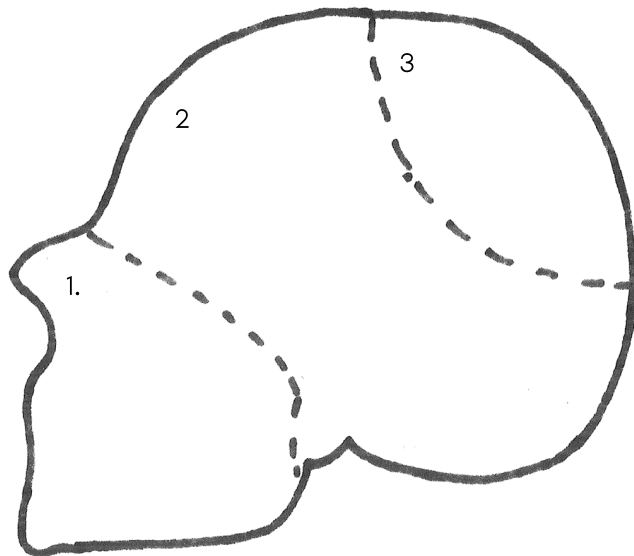
Look at the section on the O'Learys and watch the short video about the family.

What is one new thing you learned about Catherine and Patrick O'Leary?

Section 2: The Burning City

Experience how the fire spread despite the firefighters' best efforts. Understand the hard choices people made as they tried to get to safety. Meet Fannie Belle Becker, Claire Innes, Justin Butterfield and Anna Elizabeth and Joseph Hudlin.

Choose one person/couple, read their label and watch the video about them. In the head sketch symbols and drawings to represent their ideas and thoughts, and in the chart write an explanation for each sketch.



My person is:	
1.	
2.	
3.	
What is one question you would ask this person?	

Section 3: The Smoldering City

Find out how Chicagoans responded to the fire's destruction and the impact it had on their lives. Objects that didn't burn were often melted and charred by the intense heat. *Look at the melted objects in the cases and choose a different object to match each word.*

Surprising	
Pretty	
Weird	
Important	
Interesting	

People lost their homes and belongings in the fire. What do you think they needed after the fire was out?

Section 4: The Rebuilt City

Discover the choices individual people and city officials made as they envisioned how to rebuild Chicago. *Look around this section to find artifacts and documents related to the recovery to help you answer.*

Why did some people have an easier time than others after the fire?

What could have been done differently to help everyone recover?

What lessons can we learn from the Great Chicago Fire?

