

Hood by Hood: Discovering Chicago's Neighborhoods

Explore the cultural richness of Chicago's 77 neighborhoods through *Hood by Hood: Discovering Chicago's Neighborhoods* in this weekly challenge! Each week explore the history of Chicago's neighborhoods and the challenges migrants, immigrants, and refugees faced in the city of Chicago. Explore the choices these communities made and the changes they made to the city. Each challenge comes with a short article on the neighborhood history, a visual activity, a read-along audio, a short video, and a Chicago neighborhood star activity. Every week, a new challenge will be posted. The resources for this challenge come from our very own Chicago Literacies Program curriculum with CPS schools. You can read more about the program here <https://www.chicagohistory.org/education/chiliteracies/>.

Introduction

Chicago is the third-largest city in the United States. The city is made up of more than 200 neighborhoods and 77 community areas. The boundaries of some neighborhoods and communities are part of a long debate. Chicago neighborhoods and communities are grouped into 3 different areas or sides. The Southside, Northside, and Westside are used to divide the city of Chicago. There is no east side because lake Michigan is east of the city. These three sides surround the city's downtown area, or the Loop, and have been home to different groups of people.

The Southside

The Southside of Chicago is geographically the largest of all the sides. Some of the neighborhoods that are part of the Southside include Back of the Yards, Bridgeport, Hyde Park, Kenwood, Beverly, Mount Greenwood and many more. Historically, the Southside has been home to a lot of people of color. African-Americans make up a large percentage of the population. Chinese residents also make a big portion of the population in the Southside.

The Westsides of the City

The South West Side

Historically, the Westside attracted many Europeans from countries such as Norway, Denmark, Germans, and Italians. The Italian-American population peaked in the late 19th and early 20th century. However, today the Westside is home to many Mexicans and African Americans. Two important events segregated these groups to the westside of the city was the construction of the Eisenhower Expressway and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Both projects forced residents of color to relocate further west. As a result, many groups of peoples created a stronghold in certain communities. That is the case for Mexicans in Little Village and Pilsen, and African-Americans in Garfield Park, Austin, and Lawndale.

The Northwest Side

The Northwest Side has been an enclave for many groups of people. Like the Southwest side, it has been home to many White Chicagoans, but by the second half of the 20th century it attracted many Latinx

communities. During the 1940's Puerto Ricans settled in what is now known as the Old Town neighborhood. By the 1960s, urban development pushed Puerto Ricans west into neighborhoods like Lincoln Park. However, that changed with the renewal projects in the neighborhood. Those projects lead to the destruction of many homes and the removal of Puerto Ricans from the community. By the 1970s, Humboldt Park became a Puerto Rican neighborhood.

The Northside

The North Side is home to the city's most popular touristy and residential neighborhoods. The people who live in the Northside are called Northsiders. Some of the neighborhoods in the North Side include Wrigleyville, Bucktown, River's Edge, Andersonville and many more. White Chicagoans make up a large portion of the population in the Northside. Historically, the Northside has attracted immigrants from Europe and eastern European countries. The northside is home to neighborhoods like Wicker Park, Logan Square, Lakeview and West Town.

Although the Northside is predominately White, it is also home to other groups of people. Some of those groups reside in the country's most diverse street, Devon Avenue. Devon Avenue has a mix of cultural influences and establishments. One single street houses people from Pakistan, Indian, Arabia, Israel, and many more other countries.

Native American communities also reside in the Northside. After being removed from the Chicagoland area in the early 1800s, the Indian Relocation Act of 1956 brought Native American communities back to Chicago. They first settled along Wilson Avenue in the Uptown area. Throughout the late 1900s and early 2000s, Native Americans also made Lakeview, Edgewater, and Albany Park their home.

One of the most popular residential neighborhoods in the Northside is Boystown. The neighborhood is home to Chicagoans who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community. The neighborhood made history in 1997 when Mayor Richard M. Daley designated it the city's official gay neighborhood.

The Most Diverse...and the Most Segregated

Restrictive policies have historically prevented people of color from moving into white neighborhoods in the Northside. As a result, there is a large concentration of Chicagoans of color in the Southside and Westside of Chicago. There is a large concentration of white Chicagoans in the downtown and northside of the city with the exceptions of neighborhoods like Rogers Park. This is called *segregation* and it contributes to inequalities in the city. However, leaders in various communities wish to make Chicago a diverse city where all peoples regardless of race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and class can live together and help one another to make Chicago a true diverse metropolis. Hood by Hood: Discovering Chicago's Neighborhoods explores the stories of set Chicagoans.

Challenge #1: Bronzeville

This week's challenge explores the rich history of the neighborhood of Bronzeville. It celebrates the life of black Chicagoans who made the arduous journey of migrating north to escape the racial violence of the south. Once they arrived to the city, they faced different challenges, and in response made choices that changed the city. Black Chicagoans helped shape the neighborhood of Bronzeville into a dynamic culturally rich and essential part of the city's identity.

Step 1

Visual Exploration: BEFORE reading the short article *The Great Migration to Chicago* for our *Hood by Hood: Discovering Chicago's Neighborhoods Challenge* take a moment to explore the images in the article. When looking at the images ask yourself the following questions:

1. What's going on in this picture?
2. What do you see that makes you say that?
3. What more can you find?

Step 2

Reading: Read the article *The Great Migration to Chicago*

Step 3

Read Along with the Museum Audio: After reading the article read it AGAIN but this time you can read along with a member of the museum. They have some fun insights about the article!

Step 4

Video Discovery: Watch this short clip <https://vimeo.com/301694812>

Step 5

Chicago Flag Neighborhood Star Activity:

The Chicago flag has 4 stars that signify important events to the city. However, the city is now 183 years old and many events have taken place since the flag was designed. As a large diverse city, different immigrants that came to the city changed the city. What if each neighborhood would add a 6th star to the flag to represent their neighborhood? Using the graphic organizer provided help design a neighborhood star for **Bronzeville!**

Bronzeville Rising: The Great Migration to Chicago

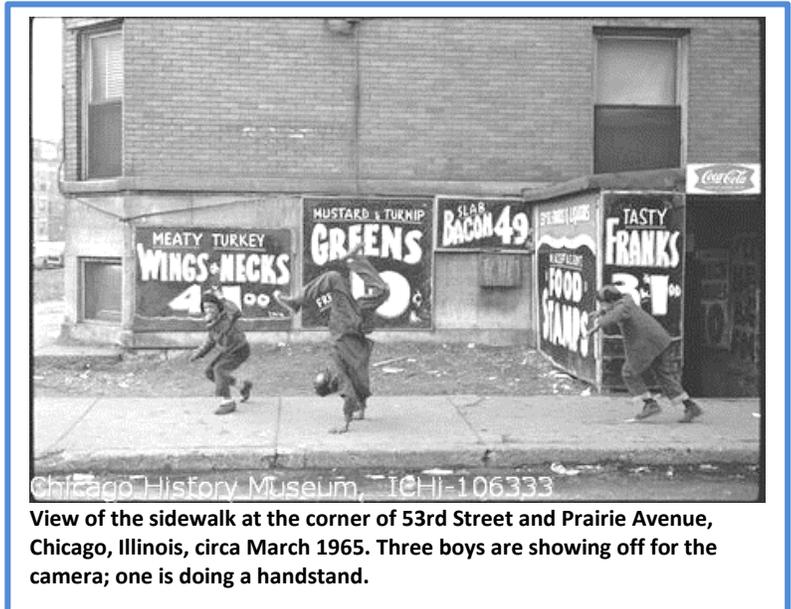
The neighborhood of Bronzeville was shaped by African-Americans who were new to Chicago. In 1916, many African-Americans left their homes in the south to move to Chicago. Some left because racism made their lives very hard in the south. Others left because they went looking for better opportunities. Some were reuniting with their family members who lived in the city. Many African-Americans that came to Chicago moved to the neighborhood of Bronzeville. Their homes were located between 22nd street and 63rd street.

White Chicago residents looked down on Bronzeville because it was where African-Americans lived. They called the neighborhood bad names. Faced with this challenge, a newspaper editor for the black-owned newspaper, *The Chicago Bee*, made a very important choice. He chose to give the neighborhood its name Bronzeville. He said the color bronze was beautiful, just like the skin tones of African-Americans.

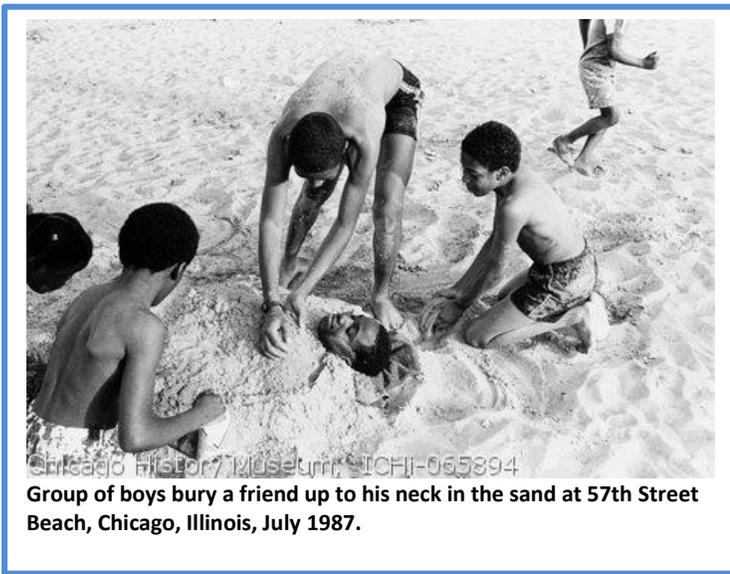
When African-Americans first arrived in Chicago they faced many challenges. One of these challenges was finding a good paying job. Many employers did not want to hire African-Americans or they paid them too little. Another challenge was finding a good place to live. Some people did not want African-Americans living near them, they made it hard for African-Americans to find a home to live in. Faced with these challenges, African-Americans made the choice to move into neighborhoods where other black people lived in order to feel safe and welcomed. Eventually, Bronzeville became the neighborhood where African-Americans could find jobs and live. Despite the challenges they faced, Bronzeville residents took care of each other.

Eventually, the neighborhood was bustling with theaters, community centers and more. In 1913, the Wabash YMCA was built, and it became the main community center. Bronzeville was also becoming a neighborhood for entertainment. Many artists and entrepreneurs lived in Bronzeville and built clubs and theaters for people to have fun. The Regal Theater opened in 1928 and quickly became one of the most important music venues in the city.

In the 1940s, Bronzeville faced another challenge, the Great Depression. The great depression lasted from 1929 through 1939 and it was a terrible period for everyone. Many people lost their jobs and their homes.



Chicago History Museum, ICHI-106333
View of the sidewalk at the corner of 53rd Street and Prairie Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, circa March 1965. Three boys are showing off for the camera; one is doing a handstand.



Many businesses were closed, people lost everything. Bronzeville was hit very hard by the great depression. The neighborhood began to look different. Many wealthy families moved, businesses closed, and many people lost their homes. The community of Bronzeville made the choice to try and recover the neighborhood the best they could. They tried to support and help one another during the great depression.

In the 1960s, black high school students in

Bronzeville and everywhere else in Chicago, faced many challenges too. The city politicians kept schools segregated and unsafe. Black and Latinx students were forced to attend schools in trailers that were overcrowded. Black and Latinx students were also upset that they were not taught the history of their culture.

On October 22, 1963 African-American and Latinx students made the choice to protest on a day called Freedom Day. Over 200,000 students walked out of their schools and marched to downtown Chicago. The students demanded better school buildings, more black and Latinx teachers, and better curriculum. The city did not listen to the students' demands but they did not give up. For the next five years students continued to protest.

On September 16, 1968 students across the city made the decision to walk out again when a principal refused to meet with students who were demanding a better curriculum. In the next months, students at different high schools protested for better schools by walking out. Other students protested by taking over the main office of their school and refusing to leave. City officials and Chicago Public Schools listened and made big changes. They began hiring more black and Latinx teachers, counselors, and administrators. They also started to build more schools in black and Latino neighborhoods.

Bronzeville faced many challenges but its African-American community members faced those challenges with courage. A courage that changed the city of Chicago by making it the home of important and great African-American leaders that changed the world.

Designing The Fifth Star on the Chicago Flag

What if each neighborhood added a fifth star to the Chicago flag to represent its neighborhood? For this activity you will design a star to represent the neighborhood you explored. Using what you learned about the neighborhood to help you design this star think about the following questions:

Questions	Draw a picture to represent your answer!
What was ONE challenge facing community members?	
What was ONE decision community members made about the challenges they faced?	
What was a change this community made to the city of Chicago?	

After exploring the challenges, decisions, and changes, choose ONE you want to represent neighborhood history and design your star. You can use markers, crayons, pencils, pens, and paints.

