

## The 5 Themes of Geography in Chicago, IL.

**WebQuest Description:** Chicago is a great place to examine our 5 themes of geography! Students will work in groups to help a new family prepare for their new life in Chicago.

**Grade Level:** 3-5

**Curriculum:** Social Studies

**Keywords:** five themes of geography, social studies, webquests, Chicago, IL

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### Introduction

What are the five themes of geography and how do they impact life in Chicago? In this quest we will be looking to answer questions about the location of Chicago, what is a great and fast way to find it on any map or even fairly accurately on a globe? This answer will lead right into the next question, what are the physical features of this land? How well do humans and the environment get along? How do humans, items, resources, and other things move around? Finally how did this region form and how has it changed?

### Tasks

The Jones family is moving to the city and very nervous about all the changes. They come from a small town, where the weather is warm all year-round, and there is about 1 of everything a person would need in their "downtown" area which is small. To help the Jones Family prepare for their move, our class will create a "Welcome to Chicago" packet. Your job is to work in a group to complete 1 packet, remember to include information about Chicago using the 5 Themes of Geography: Location, Place, Movement, Regions and Human-Environmental Interactions. In addition, you will do individual research on a destination in the city. Our Packets can serve as welcome packets to new residents, not just the Jones Family, so make them very exciting and show our good citizenship by being kind and welcoming to new residents!

### Process

The Process OverviewHello. You will be assigned to a team 4-5 students. Teacher will be assigning, please be respectful. Each team will be responsible for the following: 1. A folder or large envelop that is decorated with a welcoming theme on it. 2. A brief description of the city from each of the 5 theme's point of viewTheme 1: Location, Position on the Earth's Surface. Explain the location city of Chicago and its relationship to Lake Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Theme 2: Place, Natural and Cultural Characteristics. Describe Chicago from it's landforms, weather, climate and types of plant life that can grow, what types of animals roam free in the region? What human characteristics are on the land?Theme 3: Relationships within Places, Humans and Environments. How have and do people in Chicago adjust to their environment? What are the relationships among people and places? What are the needs of people in a large city and how has Chicago made changes to the land to fit those needs?Theme 4: Movement, Humans Interacting on the Earth. How do people move around the city? What are some major industries that other regions depend of Chicago for? Why would people visit Chicago?Theme 5: Regions, How They Form and Change. Describe the Chicago land Region (Chicago and it's surrounding suburbs), how is the Chicago land region different from other regions?Please use the group task link to begin the group portion. Each Individual Will1. Research a landmark, facility, or attraction in the city and describe:How it services residents and tourists for recreation or leisure time.What benefits it has for educational purposes.How it helps people to learn more about people of other cultures in the city.In what ways do you think people decided to use this land for this purpose and not for homes or industry? Can you think of any other needs it may meet for child, adults, the elderly, or all groups?How can we be good citizens when we visit this location?You will be given list of location to choose from, they will be sub-divided, so select an area of interest and then a building, facility, or attraction. If you have any questions please ask!

Hello Team! Here is your instructions and location for resources. You may use other resources on the internet with the exception of: wikis, blogs, social sites, and any sites blocked by school filters. 1. Theme 1 - All teams members needs to participate actively in this exercise. Please go to the side link for google earth. Follow the instructions, only 1 person needs to write the answers. Please ensure everyone contributes, it is hard to learn about a location when you do not know where it is. Describe the location of Chicago using the lake as a reference point.2. Theme 2 - Place, Natural, Human CharacteristicsLook through the weather, climate, land, nature links.Please provide a short summary on each of the sectionsSelect one section that is of interest to do a more in-depth explanation of. For instance, you can examine each individual month's weather, instead of an overview of seasons, or review the endangered species that live in this region, talk about Chicago's famous sight-seeing attractions, or select any topic in this section you find interesting. Each member should write no less than 1 paragraph (4 complete sentences) on something interesting in Chicago that a newcomer would be excited to learn about. (Don't forget, some people will be excited to see snow for the first time or discover there is open land to run and play on real grass with actual trees, in a city)In the link below weather, climate, land, and nature, you can find a

more in-depth review of Chicago and its characteristics. The page is defaulted to changes we humans have added to our landscape, there are links below, but please remember to stay within the ideas of how we define a place by looking at it, either by what nature put there&nbsp; or what man put there. You can use this resource for later sections on other themes. 3. Theme 3 - Relationships with people and the Environment.Remember we are discussing the relationship among people and their environment, and how people work with Chicago's environment as well as how we are prepared for nature.&nbsp; Weather extremes is one thing many Chicago residents expect, so what does extreme weather look like and how does the city ensure the safety of the community and visitors?What will the Jones family need for winter? (what kind of clothing, what to use to clear the driveway, melt ice on stair, get snow and ice off cars?)What can the Jones family expect from the residents of Chicago?\*For your individual projects you will be focusing further in this area in relationship to how Chicago has been developed to meet the needs of citizens in other ways.4. Theme 4 - Movement,Humans Interacting on the Earth. How do people move around in the city besides cars?What does the Chicago land area make or develop that can support other regions of the country?What brings people to Chicago? What makes Chicago attractive to tourists?&nbsp;5. Theme 5 - RegionsWhat is the Chicago-land region? What makes Chicago-land different from other regions, use your studies of all the other themes to help answer this question.What is special about belonging to a region or a group of people, especially very diverse groups like in Chicago? What advantages are there to being able to have many people around with many different thoughts and ideas, that share a community belonging.

Theme 3: Relationships within Places, Humans and Environments.

## Evaluation

Some important things to make your Web Quest a success and get an excellent grade:Use teamwork always, if your group sets up tasks and a member is falling behind, don't assume they are being lazy, some of the sections are much more involved than others. You are a team, imagine you are running a relay race, if one runner is having trouble, the next runners just need to make up for a little lost time. Ask Questions! It is much better for your grade if you understand your task. Read the individual assignment and grading before you begin. You may find it is easier to focus when you know what you are expected to do, and what to look for along the way. Ask a friend, parent, or other relative to look over your work and get another point of view. Don't let them just look at it for a minute and hand it back, get someone who will give you honest ways to make your project better. Do the same with your individual portions, but use your group members to review them. Giving someone ideas to make their project better is not saying their project is bad, it is just a different point of view, a new set of ideas. Remember everything is graded as a team, be a team, be a success, be the best!

Category and Score	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Very Good 3	Exemplary 4	Score
5 Themes	A theme is excluded, or themes are only slightly addressed. little work on the project is completed.	Each theme is partially developed, some of the assignments are complete, but half or more of the elements or questions are missing.	Each theme is partially developed, most of the assignments are complete, but 1-2 elements or questions are missing.	Each theme is well developed, all questions are answered completely.	%40
Originality	Most answers are direct from sources, some are incorrect.	No creative thought is used, answers are straight forward and simply answer the question. Some of the answers are not correct.	Some creative thought is used, students put the majority of the work in their own words, but some ideas or answers are directly from sources.	Answers show creative thought. Students use their own words to answer questions.	%20
Individual Task	Location lacks description and only has minimal benefits of visiting. A visitor would likely pass on visiting this location.	Location lacks a thorough description, more could have been added to answers or description to make location sound interesting. A visitor may or may not go to this location	Location is descriptive and interesting but not all the questions that could have applied to the location were answered. A visitor would still be interesting in going to this location	Location is descriptive and interesting and student is enthusiastic in wanting the reader to visit this location. All questions that apply to the location are answered completely. Student uses printout or brochures.	%25
Visual and Organization	Minimal effort was put into the outside of the packet and the inside of the packet is very unorganized or missing work.	The packet is visually welcoming on the outside but the internal organization is difficult to work through.	The packet is welcoming, Few color variations are used to make the packet visually inviting. The packet is well organized	The packet is welcoming to a newcomer. Several colors and variations in style are used to make packet visually inviting. All the information is well organized	%15
				Total Score	%100

## Conclusion

Has this assignment changed the way you define or view the subject of geography?What did you learn about in this assignment that you feel is something important everyone should learn about in their own regions of the world?What is something you learned about

in Chicago that would be helpful to another region and why?

## Teacher Page

**Grade:** This activity would be appropriate for 5th grade  
**Activity's Purpose:** To develop student understanding in the the five themes of geography and complete 1 instructional activity based on a view of geography as the study of relationships within places, humans, and environments.  
**Rationale:** To provide students with meaningful activities for developing knowledge of the five theme of geography. To allow students to develop collaborative learning strategies and cooperation skills. To develop awareness of various types of online references. To work on an independent project and understand the value of education, leisure, recreation, and outdoor activities in an urban environment To help to develop a sense of a student's culture and awareness of community. **Values:** Cooperation Kindness Respect Responsibility Duty Learning Community Implementation  
**Implementation:** The teacher should review the ideas of geography with students, what they believe it means, how they would define it. Next, explain the project to the students, that they will be working through the Web Quest to develop a welcome packet for a new family. The teacher should direct students to the evaluation page to review their expectations. The students can then begin to work through the quest, each process is outlined in detail. Students should be allowed ample time approximately 8-10 days to complete this quest, as there are many resources to review, reports to write, and final project to be compiled. The teacher should check in on group progress.

### **Standards**

IL STATE GOAL 17: Understand world geography and the effects of geography on society, with an emphasis on the United States.

C. Understand relationships between geographic factors and society.

17.C.2a

Describe how natural events in the physical environment affect human activities.

17.C.2b

Describe the relationships among location of resources, population distribution and economic activities (e.g., transportation, trade, communications).

17.C.2c

Explain how human activity affects the environment.

### **Credits**

### **Other**