Introduction

Exploring the United States: Timelines, Critical Thinking, and Map Work Volume 3 explores the states of Illinois, Alabama, Maine, Missouri, Arkansas, Michigan, Florida, Texas, Iowa, and Wisconsin. It's ideal for 9th-12th grade. A short introduction to each state is provided along with 20 facts that the students must arrange in a timeline. Five critical thinking questions are also included for each state, challenging the students to do independent research and form their own conclusions regarding important issues and events in the state's past as well as current events.

Each state's map work includes an outline of the state on which students can draw the location of major cities, bodies of water, mountains, and bordering states or bodies of water. The location of these places does not need to be exact; the exercise is meant to help students become familiar with the approximate location of the places and their relation to each other.

Each book concludes with 10 additional state chronology projects that combine timeline information for all 10 states covered in the unit.

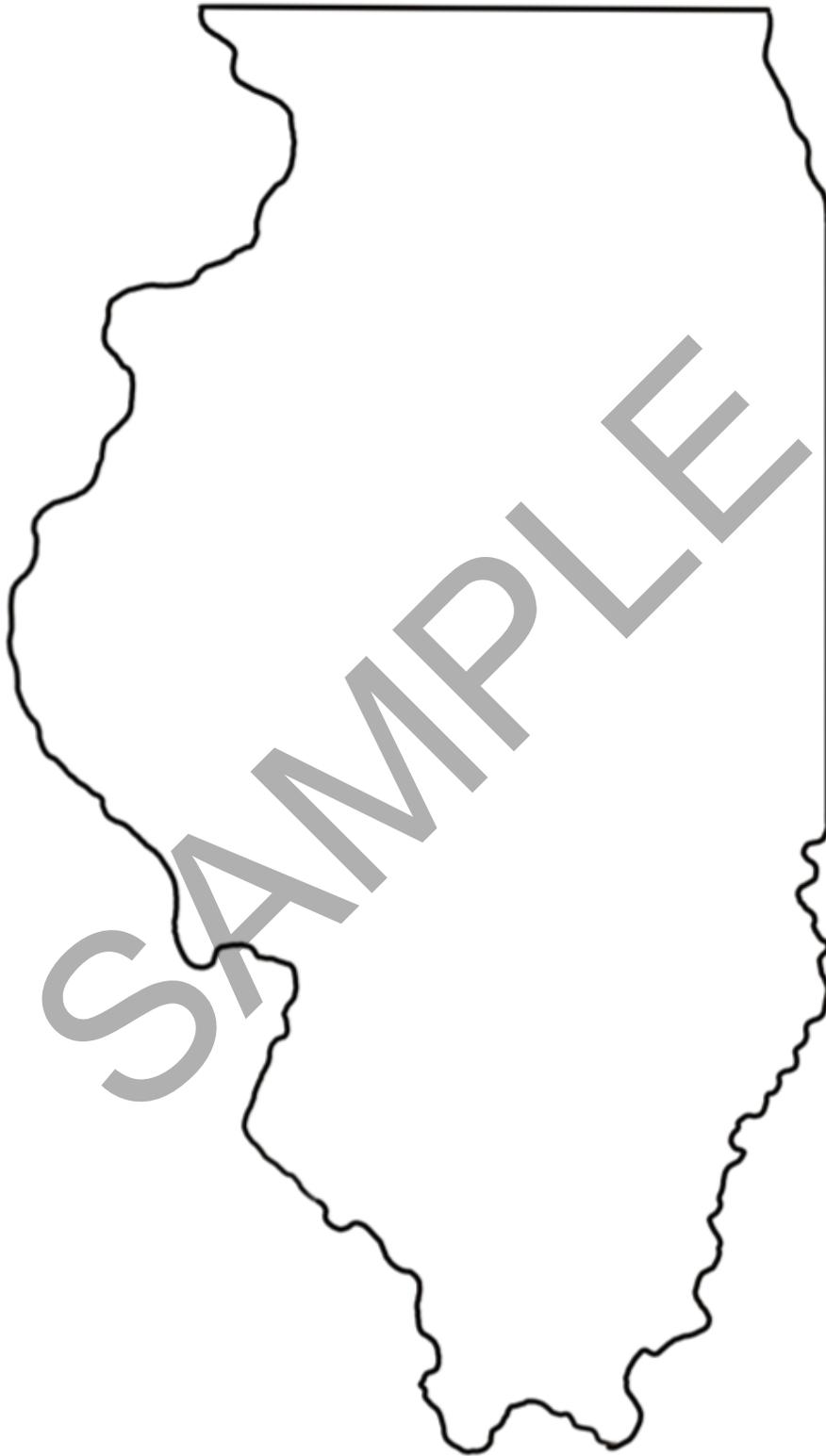Get ready for a deeper look at the history of ten of our United States!

December 3, 1818
Illinois Becomes a State

The state of Illinois has a long and interesting history. Illinois attracted many farmers in the days of the pioneers moving west. Eventually, the areas grew to the point that there was an adequate population to apply for statehood. Illinois officially became the twenty-first state of the Union on December 3, 1818. Abraham Lincoln lived in Illinois and became the nation's sixteenth president. The state sent many soldiers to fight for the Union in the Civil War, although there was some sympathy with the Confederacy in the southern part of the state. After the Civil War, Illinois grew quickly and became one of the most progressive states during the late 1890s through the early 1900s. Many famous people are from Illinois, including Ronald Reagan, Ernest Hemingway, Wyatt Earp, Carl Sandburg, Wild Bill Hickok, and Robert Todd Lincoln.

Look at the map of Illinois on the next page. Add the capital of Illinois to the map. Locate the cities of Chicago, Bloomington, Peoria, Rockford, Decatur, Danville, Joliet, and Aurora and add them to the map. Also, locate Lake Shelbyville, the Illinois River, Kaskaskia River, Mississippi River, Sangamon River, Spoon River, and the Illinois and Mississippi Canal and add them. Also add the Shawnee Hills (Illinois Ozarks). Lastly, label the states, provinces, or bodies of water that border Illinois.

Illinois

Timeline of Illinois History

Use the facts on the following page to complete the timeline.

1673

1717

1763

1778

1787

1804

1809

1818

1820

1830

1832

1837

1848

1853

1858

1861

1871

1893

1959

2005

1. The Lewis and Clark expedition starts near Wood River

2. The Sauk and Fox tribes are defeated in the Black Hawk War

3. Marquette and Jolliet arrive in Illinois

4. Abraham Lincoln becomes President of the U.S.

5. Illinois is made part of the Northwest Territory

6. The museum portion of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum opens

7. Springfield is chosen as the new capital of Illinois

8. After the French lose the French and Indian War, Illinois becomes a possession of England

9. Illinois trade increases when the St. Lawrence Seaway opens

10. Abraham Lincoln's family moves to Illinois

11. Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas debates are held during the campaign for the Senate

12. George Rogers Clark and his men capture Kaskaskia from the British during the American Revolution

13. The Chicago Fire destroys much of Chicago

14. Illinois becomes part of the French colony of Louisiana

15. The first Illinois State Fair occurs

16. Vandalia becomes the capital of Illinois

17. Illinois becomes the twenty-first state in the Union

18. The Illinois and Michigan Canal is completed

19. Chicago holds a world's fair

20. The Territory of Illinois is created

When was Chicago first settled? Why was its location advantageous for trading as people were moving west? How did it rebuild after the Chicago fire? Write about the history of this amazing city and what you think it would have been like to live there as it grew.

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Do a little research on the businesses that decided to make their headquarters in Chicago in the 1800s. Choose one and write about how the company came to be and why it established itself in Chicago. If you were starting a business today, where would you base it and why?

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Research the World's Columbian Exposition that was held in Chicago in 1893. What types of exhibits were there? What new ideas were shown to the public? What would a day at the fair have been like?

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Critical Thinking Question #4

To prepare troops for service in World War I, the Navy trained many men at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center (present-day Naval Station Great Lakes). The Army trained many at Fort Sheridan. What type of training did the men receive? Why were these locations good places to train men for fighting in the war? How do you think this advance training helped the men prepare for the war they were about to enter?

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Critical Thinking Question #5

Why do you think crime and violence became so bad in Chicago after prohibition was passed? Why was it worse in Chicago than many other places? Who was Al Capone? Was the gang warfare of that time period worse than the gang violence that occurs in cities today? How was the gang warfare stopped and Chicago made safe for the inhabitants again?

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