

History at Home for Teens

Weekly Project 1: My Trunk, My Story

Chicago is a city of **immigrants**. In 1850, 50% of Chicago's population was born outside of the US, with Irish and Germans making up a bulk of those residents. Many more European immigrants came to Chicago throughout the 1800s and into the 1900s, including Polish, Italians, Jewish, Lithuanians, among others. African Americans also **migrated** from the South to Chicago, and other northern and west coast cities, starting in the 1910's in well into the 1970s. This became known as the **Great Migration**. Although Mexican immigrants were making Chicago their home since the early 1900s, a large number of Mexican and other Latin American immigrants made their way to Chicago in the mid 1900s, and continue to arrive and thrive in the city.

All of these immigrants and migrants had to make the tough decision to pack up their trunks, leave their homes, and set out for a new life. With them, they most likely brought personal, cultural, and other important items to remember and honor their previous homes and anchor their new lives with familiar items. These items helped tell their story, whether it is a dragon idol known as the **Dragon of Wawel Hill** from Poland, or a **tortillera** (tortilla press). You can check out other items and stories of immigrant/migrants as part of the [Your Story, Our Story](#) partnership between the Chicago History Museum and the Tenement Museum in New York.

What items do you have, that you would put in your trunk that would help tell your story?



Image of tortillera, 1989 - Contributed by BH for Your Story, Our Story

Instructions:

- ◆ Pick 5 personal items that you have around your home that you feel tell your story or share who you are. These could be anything from your favorite pair of sneakers, to a family heirloom.
- ◆ Take a picture of these 5 items. Or get creative and draw them!
- ◆ In a brief two-three sentences, tell us what part of your story each item tells.
- ◆ Share them here, on social media, or on the Your Story, Our Story webpage.
- ◆ Check back to see what others are sharing and hear stories from people all over the city and surrounding areas!

To share with us, upload your photos/drawings from your phone using the Google Classroom app, or from your computer through the submit assignment tab. Share through Your Story, Our Story by following this [link](#)! You can also share your story on social media (Twitter @chicagomuseum, Instagram @chicagomuseum, Facebook @chicagohistory) tagging us and using #CHMatHomeTeens!

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

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Additional Activities

Indigenous Mapping Activity:

Indigenous people have always resided in the Chicago region, whether as indigenous residents prior to European **colonization** or as urban residents during the nineteenth and well into the twentieth centuries. Known by some of its indigenous residents, the **Miami** and **Illinois**, as **Checagou** or stinky onion, the Checagou region served as a trade center for various indigenous nations.

The choices that indigenous communities made would change Checagou and make it the city we now know. Their trading routes and use of waterways allowed them to take advantage of the **topography** of the land. Without them, the European colonizers would have had a difficult time living in Checagou. Indigenous people's land was used as the blueprint to create Chicago, like the diagonal streets in the city of Chicago, which were the original trading routes of the indigenous communities that lived here.

Instructions:

- ◆ Using the map of [Indigenous routes/trails](#) from the museum's collection and [Google maps](#), pinpoint where you live and if you are near any former Indigenous trails or sites.
- ◆ Print the blank [Chicago map](#) and map out some of the Indigenous trails and sites on to it and make sure to mark the area where you live.
- ◆ Get creative and map out some of your favorite places, school, relatives, and friends on the map.

Create Your own Chicago Blues Inspired Song:



Music and dancing with Lil Pat, 1971— Chicago History Museum, ICHI-035012; James Newberry, photographer

Starting in the 1910s, but really picking up steam in the 1940s and continuing through 1970, millions of African Americans left the farms and small towns of the South to seek a better life in northern and west coast cities. This population shift came to be called the **Great Migration**. Along with their dreams of a better future, these newcomers brought with them an incredibly vibrant type of music: the **blues**. A prime destination for southern migrants was Chicago and one major result was the **Chicago Electric Blues**.

If you'd like more information on Chicago Blues and see some of the image from our collection, check out the online exhibit, [Sweet Home Chicago](#).

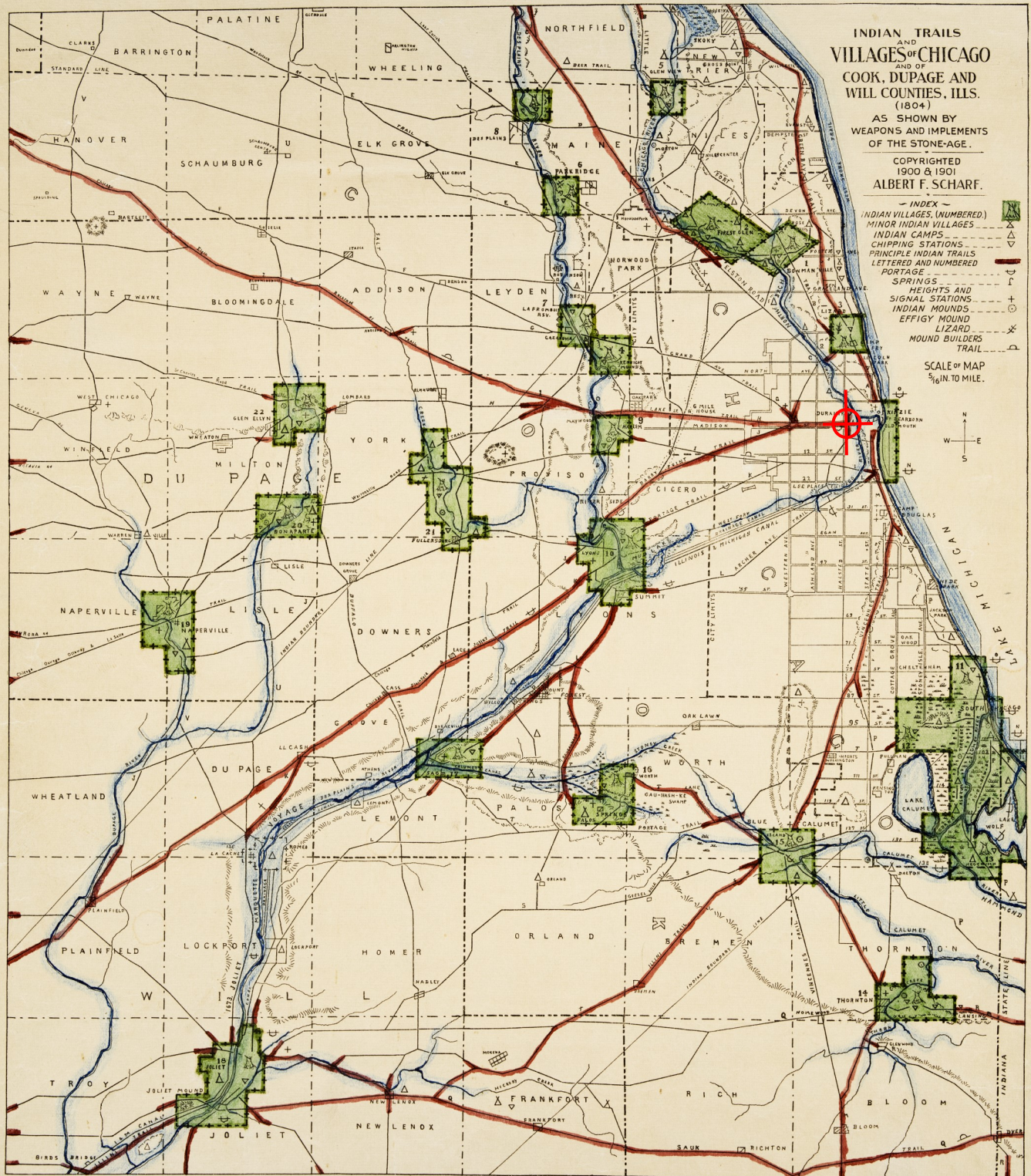
Instructions:

- ◆ Listen to Muddy Waters' song '[Mannish Boy](#)' to familiarize yourself with Chicago Blues.
- ◆ Then listen to Nas' '[Bridging the Gap](#)' to hear the way that the Blues has influenced current music genres.
- ◆ Using these two songs as inspiration, write your own Blues inspired song to share with us! It could be a blues song, a rap, or go 'a cappella' and write a spoken word poem!
- ◆ Try using Google's [Chrome Music Lab - Song Maker](#) to create an instrumental for your song.

Share With Us!!

To share with us, upload your map and/or song 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 @chicagomuseum, Instagram @chicagomuseum, Facebook @chicagohistory) tagging us and using the hashtag #CHMatHomeTeens!

Indigenous Trails and Villages Map



Chicago Map

