

Name _____

Illinois: A Journey Through Time

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Chicago's rapid growth in the late 19th century can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, its location on Lake Michigan provided access to water transportation. Additionally, the city became a major railway hub, connecting the East Coast to the West. The Great Chicago Fire of 1871, while devastating, led to modern urban planning and the construction of fire-resistant buildings, which contributed to the city's development.
2. The Illinois Confederation was a group of Native American tribes that lived in the region. They were known for their agricultural practices, including growing crops like maize and beans. Their culture and heritage continue to influence Illinois to this day.
3. Illinois played a significant role in the Underground Railroad, a network that helped enslaved individuals escape to freedom. Safe houses and secret routes were established throughout the state, providing refuge to those seeking liberty. Leaders like Elijah Lovejoy and John Jones were instrumental in these efforts.
4. Illinois faced challenges during its early years as a state, including economic struggles and conflicts with Native American tribes. However, it also achieved significant milestones, such as gaining statehood in 1818 and becoming a crucial transportation and trade hub in the Midwest.

