

CELEBRATE ILLINOIS: 200 Years in the Land of Lincoln



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Celebrate Illinois: 200 Years in the Land of Lincoln

This spring, the Museum will be first in the state to host an Illinois Bicentennial exhibition, *Celebrate Illinois: 200 Years in the Land of Lincoln*, opening Feb. 3, 2018. As part of the state-wide celebration of the 200th anniversary of Illinois becoming a state, Peoria Riverfront Museum is bringing together this unique exhibition which is a collection of state-wide artifacts celebrating the state's influential people, places, and innovations in Illinois history.

The exhibition will showcase objects on loan from the National Park Service/Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Abraham Presidential Library and Museum, Illinois State Museum, Knox College: Archives, and Galesburg Colony Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Lincoln himself, as a 31-ft. painted bronze sculpture, is ushering in the exhibit. The 19-ton "Return Visit" sculpture by artist Seward Johnson was installed on the museum's Water Street side Sept. 19 with the help of 20 Central Illinois individuals and businesses, and is on loan for a year by the Seward Johnson Foundation.

Through a selection of artifacts, from the Museum's collection, as well as others borrowed from colleges, professional organizations, other museums and historical societies, visitors will have the chance to discover the 200 years of Illinois history through each object.

Celebrate Illinois is being curated around the concept that objects tell stories, and behind each object is a person with a unique story to tell – a personal insight into the history of Illinois. The objects will highlight both well-known and lesser-known artists, innovators, abolitionists, U.S. Presidents, athletes, entrepreneurs, war veterans, and a few celebrities.

The exhibition is a unique opportunity for Museum visitors to find inspiration in the number of people and objects that have positively impacted the state's history.

Before walking in the Gallery, please remind your students of the following:

How should we behave when we're inside the gallery?

1. Walk.
2. Use inside voices.
3. Do not touch the exhibits.

As you enter the Celebrate Illinois gallery, begin a discussion with your students. You could start by saying something similar to the following:

This exhibit is called *Celebrate Illinois: 200 Years in the Land of Lincoln*. Can anyone guess what we will see inside this gallery?

Answer: This exhibition explores over 200 years of Illinois History to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Illinois' statehood (1818). The gallery is broken up into several categories that each look at our history through a different lens, including the settling of Illinois, agriculture, industry, innovation, and culture.

Who are the presidents that are from Illinois?

ANSWER: President Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States, in office from 1861-1865 (assassinated after his second election to office); he is best remembered for reuniting the nation by ending the Civil War and for signing the Emancipation Proclamation which ended slavery in the South.

President Ulysses S. Grant was the 18th president of the United States, in office from 1869-1877; he is best remembered for his service as a Union general during the Civil War, his role in Reconstruction and the start of Civil Rights during his presidency, and his Indian Peace Policy.

President Ronald Reagan was the 40th president of the United States, in office from 1981-1989; he is best remembered for his successful economic and foreign policies, and his part in bringing an end to the Cold War.

President Barak Obama was the 44th president of the United States, in office from 2009-2017; there are many things that President Obama is currently known for, but which of those history will find most significant is still to be determined.

Which city was settled first, Peoria or Chicago?

ANSWER: Peoria, Il was the first European settlement in Illinois. It was established by Henri de Tonti in 1691, as Fort Crevecoeur. This first fort later burned down and was replaced in 1813 by Fort Clark. In 1825, the fort was renamed Peoria, and the town was officially incorporated in 1835.

Jean Baptiste du Sable is considered to be the first settler in Chicago; he built his farm at the mouth of the Chicago River in the 1780s. Fort Dearborn was constructed in 1803 on the Chicago River, and the town was officially incorporated in 1833.

Name: _____

CELEBRATE ILLINOIS SCAVENGER HUNT

The gallery you are in is called *Celebrate Illinois: 200 Years in the Land of Lincoln*. This room explores the history of Illinois and highlights the many people who helped to make this state great. As you walk through the gallery, be on the lookout for answers to the questions below. Some answers will be found by reading the labels in the gallery, while other answers will require you to think about what you see in the gallery.

Early Illinois

What confederation of native tribes gave our state its name? What tribes compromised the confederation?

What animal is depicted on the Mississippian Gorget?

Which forts did Henri de Tonti found?

Immigration

Who wrote "Das Populäre Geschichte der Stadt Peoria"? What language is it in?

What Immigrant group helped build the Illinois-Michigan Canal in 1848?

What was the first Swedish colony in Illinois?

Agriculture

Why was the John Deere plow so important to Illinois?

What did the McCormick Reaper do?

What percentage of the U.S. population are farmers? How many people do they feed?

Industry and Social Reform

What were some of the railroads that crossed Illinois? Did any go through Peoria?

What is the Ead's Bridge?

Industry and Social Reform cont.

Which woman reformer founded the Hull House and is considered the Mother of Social Work?

What other social reform did the women reformers push for?

Innovations in Science

What fruit did Mary Hunt and Andrew Moyer find a potent strain of penicillin in?

Why did G. J. Mercherle start the State Farm Insurance Company?

What galaxy did Edwin Hubble discover with his Hubble Telescope?

Civil War

What was the Phelps barn?

What were several major Underground Railroad centers?

Who was President of the United States during the Civil War?

Which two Civil War generals were also politicians?

Art and Culture

Who created the Mid-Century Modern style?

What kind of art did the Chicago Imagists find inspiration from?

Pick your favorite art piece and write down the name of the artist and the title of the piece. Why do you like it?

Politics and Pop Culture

What city had a race riot so violent it prompted the organization of the NAACP?

Who are the 40th and 44th Presidents of the United States of America?

Which underdog baseball team won their first world series in 108 years in 2016?

After Exhibit Discussion

What was something new about Illinois that you learned from the exhibit:

What is something that you have done or would like to do to positively impact our state?

What was your favorite *object* in the exhibit:

Draw a picture of your favorite object: