

Free!

Upper Elementary
Printables and Activities
to Foster Critical Thinking

The Great Chicago Fire

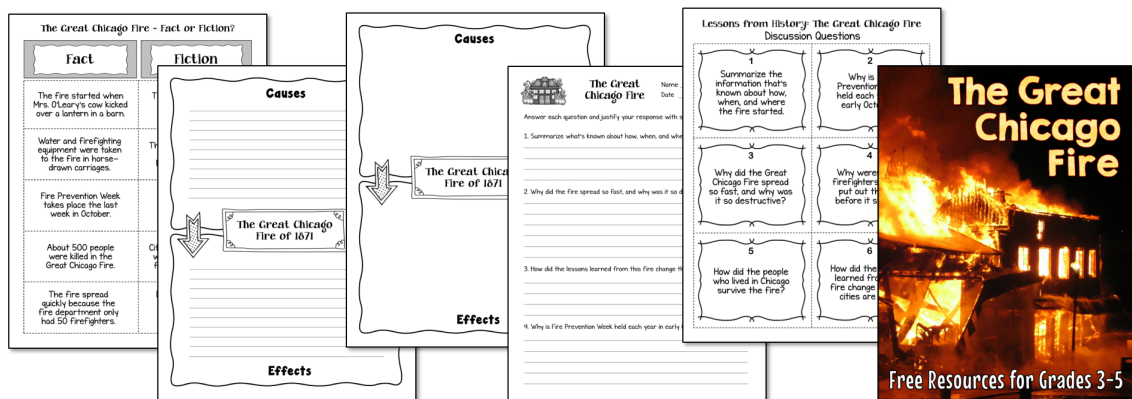
Laura Candler's Teaching Resources

The Great Chicago Fire

Upper Elementary Resources
from Laura Candler



The Great Chicago Fire: Upper Elementary Resources is a collection of free printables for teaching kids about the devastating Chicago fire in 1871. Why teach kids about this disaster? There are many lessons to be learned from studying events from our nation's history, including the reasons for the fire and the fact that modern day fire prevention laws and practices have changed as a result of this event. It's also a great way to integrate fire prevention lessons into your social studies and reading curriculums. You can find the directions that go with these printables on my blog in an article called **The Great Chicago Fire**. [Click here](#) to find it on LauraCandler.com.



Great Chicago Fire Resources Referenced

I created these printables and activities to be used with a free video from the National Fire Protection Association and two children's books from Scholastic. Click the titles below to find links to where you can view or purchase these items online.

- [Lessons from History: The Great Chicago Fire](#) (Video)
- [I Survived the Great Chicago Fire](#) by Lauren Tarshis (Historical Fiction Chapter Book)
- [The Great Fire](#) by Jim Murphy (Non-fiction Book)



The Great Chicago Fire - Fact or Fiction?

Fact

The fire started when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern in a barn.

Water and firefighting equipment were taken to the fire in horse-drawn carriages.

Fire Prevention Week takes place the last week in October.

About 500 people were killed in the Great Chicago Fire.

The fire spread quickly because the fire department only had 50 firefighters.

Fiction

The Great Chicago Fire started on Sunday, October 9, 1871.

The fire burned an area of Chicago 10 miles long and 1 mile wide.

People escaped the fire by jumping into Lake Michigan.

Cities are now built with wider streets to keep fires from spreading.

Before the fire, just about everything was made of wood, including sidewalks.

Causes



The Great Chicago
Fire of 1871

Effects

Lessons from History: The Great Chicago Fire

Discussion Questions

1

Summarize the information that's known about how, when, and where the fire started.

2

Why is Fire Prevention Week held each year in early October?

3

Why did the Great Chicago Fire spread so fast, and why was it so destructive?

4

Why weren't the firefighters able to put out the fire before it spread?

5

How did the people who lived in Chicago survive the fire?

6

How did the lessons learned from this fire change the way cities are built?



The Great Chicago Fire

Name _____

Date _____

Answer each question and justify your response with specific details.

1. Summarize what's known about how, when, and where the fire started.

2. Why did the fire spread so fast, and why was it so destructive?

3. How did the lessons learned from this fire change the way cities are built?

4. Why is Fire Prevention Week held each year in early October?



Laura Candler's Teaching Resources

More FREE Resources from Laura Candler!

For more freebies, sign up for [Candler's Classroom Connections](#). Subscribers get access to my Free Resource Library, a private page with dozens of free resources.



More Teaching Resources You'll Love!

Click each product to find it in [Laura Candler's TpT store](#).

