

Chicago Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Chicago trivia spans a city shaped by rapid growth, architectural innovation, immigrant communities, and a long-standing influence on American music, food, sports, and politics. From the 1871 Great Chicago Fire and the rise of the skyscraper to neighborhood traditions and famous rivalries, it offers a lively mix of well-known facts and lesser-known local history.

HARD CHICAGO TRIVIA

1. Which structure, completed in 1885, is often singled out as the first skyscraper?

Answer: Home Insurance Building

2. Who co-authored the 1909 Plan of Chicago?

Answer: Daniel Burnham

3. What settlement house, founded in Chicago in 1889 by Jane Addams, is the answer here?

Answer: Hull House

4. Name the politician who became Chicago's first Black mayor in 1983.?

Answer: Harold Washington

5. Which Chicago labor conflict is tied specifically to the year 1886?

Answer: Haymarket affair

6. What was the name of Chicago's world's fair that opened in 1933?

Answer: Century of Progress

7. In what year did the St. Valentine's Day Massacre happen in Chicago?

Answer: 1929

8. Which Prohibition-era figure is identified here as a leading Chicago gangster?

Answer: Al Capone

9. Which novel exposed conditions in Chicago's meatpacking industry?

Answer: The Jungle

10. What novel by Richard Wright is set largely in Chicago?

Answer: Native Son

11. Who wrote the poem "Chicago," the one that calls the city "Hog Butcher for the World" ?

Answer: Carl Sandburg

12. Which Chicago neighborhood has National Historical Park status?

Answer: Pullman

13. Who published the first Playboy issue in Chicago in 1953?

Answer: Hugh Hefner

14. Which North Michigan Avenue landmark opened in 1925?

Answer: Chicago Tribune Tower

FUNNY CHICAGO TRIVIA

1. What shiny Chicago landmark has inspired generations of tourists to say, with total scientific precision, 'Meet me at the Bean'?

Answer: Cloud Gate's popular nickname is 'The Bean.'

2. If a movie car chase in Chicago suddenly dives below street level, which road is probably about to become the star of the scene?

Answer: Lower Wacker Drive.

3. Chicago's 'L' got its name because the tracks are what above the streets?

Answer: Elevated above the city streets.

4. True or false: Chicago became the 'Windy City' mainly because everyone was talking about the weather forecast.?

Answer: False

5. Before it was called Willis Tower, what name did Chicagoans use for that giant skyline overachiever?

Answer: Sears Tower.

6. Chicago's Municipal Device looks like the letter Y because it represents what?

Answer: The branches of the Chicago River.

7. How many main branches does the Chicago River have enough for a hydrology hat trick?

Answer: Three.

8. What is the name commonly used for Chicago-style popcorn that mixes caramel and cheese corn in one gloriously indecisive bag?

Answer: The Garrett Mix.

9. A classic Chicago 'gym shoe' sandwich commonly teams up which meats?

Answer: Gyro meat and corned beef.

10. When Chicago first dyed the river green, the people behind the trick were not leprechauns but what workers?

Answer: Plumbers.

11. On which side of Chicago do the Cubs play, proving baseball geography can also be a personality test?

Answer: The North Side.

12. What lets Chicagoans casually announce, 'I'm going to the beach,' without leaving the city limits?

Answer: Chicago's broad lakefront and city beaches.

13. The giant Picasso in Daley Plaza has stood there since 1967 and has what surprisingly unhelpful title?

Answer: It remains untitled.

FUN CHICAGO TRIVIA

1. What giant amusement-park ride made its first modern debut at Chicago's 1893 World's Fair?

Answer: The Ferris wheel debuted there.

2. If you start a classic American road trip on Route 66, which city are you traditionally setting out from?

Answer: Chicago.

3. Which iconic Chicago food is traditionally topped with both a pickle spear and sport peppers?

Answer: A Chicago-style hot dog.

4. What famously hefty pizza style is one of Chicago's signature foods?

Answer: Deep-dish pizza.

5. In what year did Chicago pull off the wild feat of reversing the flow of the Chicago River?

Answer: 1900.

6. Chicago's annual air and water show takes place along what part of the city?

Answer: The lakefront.

7. Which major music festival turns Chicago's Grant Park into a huge concert venue?

Answer: Lollapalooza.

8. Which movie took a very memorable day off while filming several iconic scenes in Chicago?

Answer: Ferris Bueller's Day Off.

9. Which filmmaker set multiple teen films in and around Chicago?

Answer: John Hughes.

10. What blues classic is basically a musical postcard to the city, strongly associated with Chicago?

Answer: "Sweet Home Chicago."

11. Which blues legend became a major figure in Chicago's music scene?

Answer: Muddy Waters.

12. Which rapper was born in Atlanta but raised in Chicago?

Answer: Kanye West.

13. Which future president lived in Chicago and launched his political career there?

Answer: Barack Obama.

CHICAGO FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which Chicago zoo is famous for offering free admission?

Answer: Lincoln Park Zoo offers free admission.

2. In which Chicago neighborhood would you find the Museum of Science and Industry?

Answer: The Museum of Science and Industry is in Hyde Park.

3. What university campus is located in Hyde Park?

Answer: The University of Chicago campus is in Hyde Park.

4. Which famous Chicago structure was one of the few buildings to survive the Great Chicago Fire?

Answer: The Chicago Water Tower was one of the few buildings to survive the Great Chicago Fire.

5. What is the name of the Ferris wheel on Navy Pier?

Answer: The Ferris wheel on Navy Pier is the Centennial Wheel.

6. Which agency runs Chicago's elevated rapid transit system, often called the 'L'?

Answer: The CTA runs Chicago's 'L' system.

7. Chicago's river gets a bright green makeover for which celebration each year?

Answer: It is dyed green for St. Patrick's Day.

8. Which museum in Chicago is known for displaying the painting 'American Gothic'?

Answer: The Art Institute of Chicago is known for displaying 'American Gothic'.

9. What is the name of the famous Tyrannosaurus rex fossil at the Field Museum?

Answer: The fossil is named Sue.

10. Where is the Chicago Children's Museum located?

Answer: The Chicago Children's Museum is located at Navy Pier.

11. What is Chicago's official city flower?

Answer: Chicago's official city flower is the chrysanthemum.

12. Which bird has the honor of being Chicago's official city bird?

Answer: Chicago's official city bird is the peregrine falcon.

EASY CHICAGO TRIVIA

1. Chicago is the largest city in which U.S. state?

Answer: Illinois

2. Chicago sits along the southwestern shore of what lake?

Answer: Lake Michigan

3. In what year was Chicago incorporated as a city?

Answer: 1837

4. Which NFL team calls Chicago home?

Answer: Chicago Bears

5. Which NBA team is based in Chicago?

Answer: Chicago Bulls

6. What is the home ballpark of the Chicago Cubs?

Answer: Wrigley Field

7. What is the official name of the mirrored sculpture in Millennium Park nicknamed "The Bean" ?

Answer: Cloud Gate

8. Which Chicago attraction stretches out into Lake Michigan from the shoreline?

Answer: Navy Pier

9. What river flows through downtown Chicago?

Answer: Chicago River

10. The Great Chicago Fire happened in what year?

Answer: 1871

11. The skyscraper now officially called Willis Tower was formerly known by what name?

Answer: Sears Tower

12. What large lakefront park sits just south of downtown Chicago?

Answer: Grant Park

13. Which fountain is a major landmark in Grant Park?

Answer: Buckingham Fountain

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/chicago>