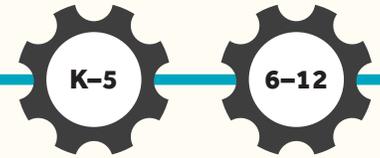


# 8 HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY, ILLINOIS!



The ideas we have presented in this guide, combined with your diverse classroom experiences, preferred learning strategies, various disciplines, and personal creative concepts, are just what we need to make State history a dynamic and engaging area of study. We envision classrooms across the State delving into forgotten places and taking a deeper look at key figures and events throughout the school year. Consider the culmination of all these classroom explorations a celebration of our great State and your influence in creating leaders for the next 200 years!

## K-5

### STANDARDS

#### ELA STANDARDS

- K-5 Writing 1 and 2: Writing opinion and informational text
- K-5 Writing Standards 4-9: Produce and share information
- K-5 Speaking and Listening 4-6: Presentation of knowledge and ideas

#### SOCIAL SCIENCE STANDARDS

- SS.H.1.K: Compare life in the past with life today.
- SS.H.2.K: Explain the significance of our national holidays and the heroism and achievements of the people associated with them.
- SS.H.2.1: Describe individuals and groups who have shaped a significant historical change.
- SS.G.1.2: Construct and interpret maps and other graphic representations of both familiar and unfamiliar places.
- SS.H.2.2: Compare individuals and groups who have shaped a significant historical change.
- SS.H.2.3: Describe how significant people, events, and developments have shaped their own community and region.
- SS.G.1.4: Construct and interpret maps of Illinois and the United States using various media.
- SS.G.2.4: Analyze how the cultural and environmental characteristics of places in Illinois change over time.

## ACTIVITIES

Create a birthday party atmosphere and celebrate our State with everything from facts and figures to cake and ice cream! Invite community members to engage in the celebration and learn more about the events students have explored.

- Invite key characters from *The Illinois Chronicles*, have students dress up or role play those characters and present their role in State history.
- Make a cake in the shape of our State and decorate it with symbols of our legacy.
- Create an oversized map of Illinois and highlight places of significance throughout the State as referenced in *The Illinois Chronicles* articles or timeline. Indicate the places on the map where the events took place with an image or symbol to represent the event or its significance. Be sure to include not only the locations highlighted on the back of the timeline but track other events discussed in your study of Illinois!
- Create bunting or garland decorations using key moments from the timeline on each individual flag. On one side put an image to commemorate that moment and on the other a brief description of the event and its significance. Complete and hang the bunting up in time for the day of the birthday party.
- Ask students to work in groups to summarize the six subject-area themes from the timeline (sport and adventure, conflict and tragedy, science and engineering, commerce and architecture, culture and heritage, and politics and civil rights). The groups can then create a presentation or dramatic representation that showcases the importance of those events.
- Have students create a multiple-choice quiz of 10 or so events from Illinois history. Encourage them to quiz their classmates, teachers, and parents/adults, and graph the results for display at the party. For quick reference, make sure a copy of the *The Illinois Chronicles* timeline is readily accessible—or even mounted on the classroom wall. As an added bonus, if community members join the party, test their knowledge about Illinois history, too!

## 6–12

## STANDARDS

### ELA STANDARDS

6–12 RH and RI 1–3: Key ideas and details

6–12 RH and RI 7–9: Integration of knowledge and ideas

6–12 W and WHST 1 and 2: Writing argument and informational text

6–12 W and WHST 7–9: Research to build and present knowledge

### SOCIAL SCIENCE STANDARDS

SS.H.1.6–8.MdC: Analyze connections among events and developments in broader historical contexts.

SS.H.8.9–12: Analyze key historical events and contributions of individuals through a variety of perspectives, including those of historically underrepresented groups.

## ACTIVITIES

Celebrate Illinois Statehood in your classroom—or even your whole school by throwing a birthday party! Invite a local government representative to come and speak to your classroom or even address the entire school!

- Have students design their own Bicentennial logo or flag. What would they include?
- Celebrate our State by researching historical anniversaries and official State events. Share informative writing and personal perspectives in a variety of ways. This could be done by creating posters, advertisements, mock-social media (fake Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) or a webpage. Share what students have created across real social media platforms.
- Create commercials/infomercials about significant contributions in Illinois history. Perform or play recordings of these advertisements at the celebration.
- In 1925, the Illinois General Assembly signed an act making the song “Illinois” (lyrics by Charles H. Chamberlain and music by Archibald Johnson), the official State song. Divide students into groups and create a new theme song for the Illinois Bicentennial, which could be performed live at a school function or recorded to share on social media.