

It's a Long Way from Home

High School: Grades 9–12

Map Guide

Enjoy using the Interactive History Map to complete this map guide! Remember to use the zooming tools—the plus, minus, and arrow symbols—to look closely at all the pictures.

1. Click on the “Robert’s Neighborhood” tab. Click on the dot on the map to see the business district. The “Then” view of Cottage Grove Avenue c.1920 will come up on the right side of your screen. Use the zoom tools to take a close look and complete the chart below.

	List four business in the photograph	Note a few details for each: what they sell, how much things cost, etc.
A.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
B.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
C.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
D.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

2. Click on the “Typical Home” dot on the map. What time of year was this photograph taken? How do you know? From what material do these houses seem to be made?

3. Click on the dot for “Illinois Central Station.” Look closely at the map. At what intersection is the station located? Where is it located in relation to the houses occupied by newly arrived African American migrants?

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4. Click on the “Now” button to see the site of Illinois Central Station today. Although the station is no longer there, what reference to the site’s history can you find in the contemporary photograph?

5. Click on the “Then” button and go to the green artifact tray along the bottom of your screen. Click on the first photograph of “Homes on South Park Avenue.” Click on the blue “Narration” button and read along as you listen. In the story, the character Louis has just moved to Chicago from the South. From the narration and your own prior knowledge, list three differences Louis may have noticed between the rural south and urban Chicago.

6. Click on the second photograph in the tray, “Members of Olivet Baptist Church, c. 1925.” Why do you think the people are so nicely dressed in this picture? What else does the picture tell you about the community in which these people live?

7. Click on the third image of the migrant family from the South, c. 1920. Recall the map. How do you think these people traveled to Chicago? What do you think they brought with them in their suitcases? How might they have heard about Chicago?

8. Make three general statements about Robert’s neighborhood based on all the images you have examined.

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9. Click on “The Stroll” tab. Click on the “Plantation Cafe” dot on the map. Use the zoom tools to look at the “Then” view. What business is located on the second floor of the building? Read the signs in the windows and doorways of the first floor of the building. What goods and services are available to customers?

10. Click on the first image in the artifact tray to see the Original Creole Orchestra. How many people are in this orchestra? What do you see written across the middle man in the front row? Why do you think it is written there?

11. Click on the seventh image to see the Savoy Ballroom. What new information do you learn about the Stroll from reading the text to the right of the picture? Name two types of things you could do at the Savoy according to the advertisements on the building.

12. Make three general statements about the Stroll based on all the images you have examined.

13. From all the images in the interactive history map, select the one you find most interesting. Make up your own question about the picture. What is the picture?

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Your question:

14. Write two things you have learned about Chicago history from completing this map guide.

- A. _____
B. _____

15. You have just explored the vibrant neighborhood that African Americans created in Chicago during the 1920s. Imagine that you have migrated from the South to live in Chicago. On a separate piece of paper, write a letter to your friends or relatives in the South describing your new home and inviting them to visit. Describe specific things you see and do in your new neighborhood. Express your overall opinion of the neighborhood and explain your thinking. Try to persuade your friend or relative to move to or visit Chicago, what reasons can you give them? Be sure to include the date, a greeting, a conclusion and your signature on your letter. Refer back to the answers you recorded in this map guide to help write your letter.