

ILLINOIS (IL)

Prairie State

Fast Facts

State Capital: Springfield
Population: 12,419,293 (Census 2000)
Land Area: 55,584 square miles
Year Admitted to the Union: 1818



State Flag



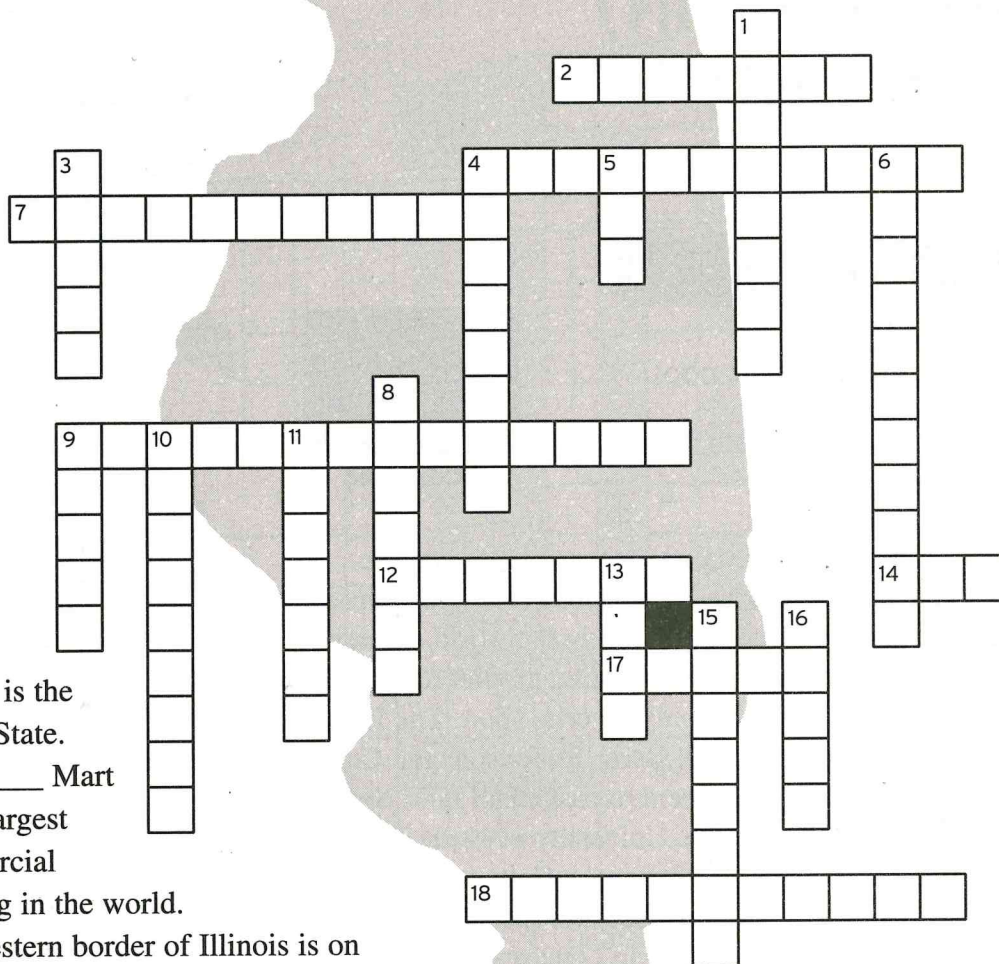
Illinois is also called the Land of Lincoln because President Abraham Lincoln had a long career here as postmaster, lawyer, and legislator. As president, Lincoln fought against slavery. After his assassination in 1865, Lincoln was laid to rest in Springfield, Illinois. Author Carl Sandburg wrote a six-volume biography of Lincoln. Sandburg also wrote about his home state, Illinois.

For almost two centuries, Illinois has played a major role in transportation. Although not located in the middle of the country, Illinois—especially Chicago—was the connection between the East Coast and the western frontier in the early 1800s. With its western border on the Mississippi River and access to Lake Michigan (one of the Great Lakes) and other rivers, the state became a center for water transportation. It was also a major railroad center. Today, Chicago's O'Hare is one of the busiest airports in the world.



Jutting out into Lake Michigan, Chicago is the third-largest city in the United States. Chicago's Merchandise Mart is the biggest commercial building anywhere. The Loop, its downtown area, boasts elegant shops, hotels, and restaurants. Great museums abound and the city's cafes and nightspots nurture its strong jazz and blues traditions, as well as rock and roll. The Chicago Cubs baseball team plays at Wrigley Field.

Before Chicago became such a hot spot, it was on fire. Legend has it that in 1871, Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern, starting a fire that destroyed much of the city. Chicago was rebuilt as an architectural jewel. Skyscrapers first appeared here and the city's Sears Tower was the world's tallest building until 1996, when it was surpassed by Malaysia's Petronas Towers. Frank Lloyd Wright, America's premier architect, designed astounding buildings in Chicago. Around the city, sculptures by prominent artists—including Chagall, Calder, and Picasso—are on public display. While the "Windy City" retains its old-fashioned quality, it stays on the cutting edge, renewing itself for the next century.



ACROSS

2. Illinois is the _____ State.
4. The _____ Mart is the largest commercial building in the world.
7. The western border of Illinois is on the _____ River.
9. Illinois is a major _____ center.
12. Illinois is also called the Land of _____.
14. President Lincoln practiced _____ in Illinois.
17. _____ is one of the world's busiest airports.
18. _____, very tall buildings, first appeared in Chicago.

5. According to legend, a _____ set Chicago on fire.
6. President Lincoln is buried in the state capital of _____.
8. The Chicago Cubs play at _____ Field.
9. Chicago is the _____ (number) largest city in the United States.
10. Frank Lloyd Wright was a famous _____.
11. Chagall, Calder, and _____ are artists on public display in Chicago.
13. The _____ is the downtown area of Chicago.
15. Author Carl _____ wrote about Illinois.
16. _____ Tower in Chicago is one of the tallest buildings in the world.

DOWN

1. In the 1800s, Illinois connected the East Coast to the western _____.
3. Chicago is nicknamed the "_____ City."
4. Lake _____ is a Great Lake.