Chicago’s makers and shakers

By Cricket Media, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.06.19
Word Count 676
Level 910L

William Butler Ogden

In 1835, William Butler Ogden came to Chicago from the East Coast to purchase land. He soon realized the city's potential and returned to settle there. He became Chicago's first mayor in 1837. He supported early development in the city. This included the building of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. This was an artificial waterway that connected the Great Lakes with the Mississippi River. He also led the creation of the city's first railroad, the Galena and Chicago Union, which ran west from Chicago.

Potter Palmer And Bertha Honore Palmer

After opening a successful dry-goods store in 1852 which was aimed at women shoppers, Potter Palmer turned to real estate in the 1860s. He developed Chicago's State Street along the lakeshore into a grand boulevard. Before the Great Fire of 1871, he owned nearly 100 buildings. One of these was the elegant Palmer House Hotel. Palmer built the hotel as a gift for his wife, Bertha Honore
Palmer. Committed to rebuilding the city after the fire, the Palmers became its social center. Bertha oversaw efforts to organize a Women's Building during the World's Columbian Exposition. The Columbian Exposition was a fair that took place in Chicago in 1893. People came from all over the world. Upon Bertha’s death, she donated her world-class collection of paintings to the Art Institute of Chicago.

**Cyrus H. McCormick**

In 1831, Cyrus H. McCormick invented a revolutionary farm tool known as a mechanical reaper. The horse-drawn mechanical reaper allowed farmers to harvest their grains mechanically for the first time. Before the reaper, grain was harvested by hand with a sharp, curved farm tool known as a scythe. In 1847, McCormick moved from Virginia to Chicago. He wanted to be closer to Midwestern farmers and crops. The McCormick Harvesting Machine Company became a huge success. His reaper allowed farmers to realize more profits, too.

**George M. Pullman**

George M. Pullman arrived in Chicago in 1859. In the 1860s, he remodeled railroad cars to offer sleeping and dining compartments. He went on to build his own line of luxury cars in the town of Pullman, a community that he also built. The town is located just south of Chicago. His Pullman Palace Cars made travel by train more pleasant for passengers, and they made a fortune for Pullman.

**Marshall Field**

Marshall Field took over Potter Palmer’s dry-goods business after Palmer retired in 1865. By the 1880s, Field had become the owner of the largest department store in the world. It was known as Marshall Field’s. He is credited with starting many modern retailing practices. These included displaying prices, allowing returns and full refunds and emphasizing customer service.

**Aaron Montgomery Ward**

Aaron Montgomery Ward worked initially as a traveling dry-goods salesman based out of Chicago. He came up with the idea for his own company in the 1860s. Ward started a mail-order catalog to sell goods directly and less expensively to people living in rural areas. His business, Montgomery Ward & Company, was founded in 1872. It proved to be a huge success.

**Gustavus Swift**

Gustavus Swift arrived in Chicago in 1875, after recognizing that the city was becoming a meatpacking headquarters. He hired an engineer to design a refrigerated railroad car. This technology enabled him to ship meat from Chicago to the East Coast without it spoiling. The method was a success and cheaper than trying to ship live cattle.

**Jane Addams**

In 1889, Jane Addams founded Hull House, the first settlement house in the United States. Settlement houses are located in inner cities and provide social services, such as educational and recreational programs. Hull House focused on the care of the poor and immigrant communities in the city. Addams devoted her life to supporting causes, including women’s rights, children's rights,
civil rights, labor unions and peace. In 1931, she became the first U.S. woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to someone who has made a great effort in improving their community or the world.
1. When did Chicago start having someone to officially lead the city? How do you know?

(A) "In 1835, William Butler Ogden came to Chicago from the East Coast to purchase land."

(B) "He became Chicago's first mayor in 1837. He supported early development in the city."

(C) "After opening a successful dry-goods store in 1852, which was aimed at women shoppers, Potter Palmer turned to real estate in the 1860s."

(D) "George M. Pullman arrived in Chicago in 1859. In the 1860s, he remodeled railroad cars to offer sleeping and dining compartments."

2. Which sentence in the section "Jane Addams" BEST supports the conclusion that Addams' work was recognized in a major way?

(A) In 1889, Jane Addams founded Hull House, the first settlement house in the United States.

(B) Hull House focused on the care of the poor and immigrant communities in the city.

(C) Addams devoted her life to supporting causes, including women's rights, children's rights, civil rights, labor unions and peace.

(D) In 1931, she became the first U.S. woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

3. What does the word "revolutionary" suggest as it is used in the selection?

   In 1831, Cyrus H. McCormick invented a revolutionary farm tool known as a mechanical reaper. The horse-drawn mechanical reaper allowed farmers to harvest their grains mechanically for the first time.

   (A) that the mechanical reaper completely changed how farming was done

   (B) that the mechanical reaper was controversial and many people disliked it

   (C) that the mechanical reaper had very little impact on harvesting techniques

   (D) that the mechanical reaper was the earliest known method for getting grains

4. Read the sentence from the section "Marshall Field."

   Marshall Field took over Potter Palmer's dry-goods business after Palmer retired in 1865. By the 1880s, Field had become the owner of the largest department store in the world. It was known as Marshall Field's. He is credited with starting many modern retailing practices. These included displaying prices, allowing returns and full refunds and emphasizing customer service.

   Which of the following words, if it replaced the word "emphasizing" in the sentence above, would CHANGE the meaning of the sentence?

   (A) stressing

   (B) highlighting

   (C) minimizing

   (D) prioritizing