

After the Fire

1. Noun

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Long ago, there was a very big fire in _____ Noun _____. All the houses

were made of wood. The streets were wood, too. Wood burns easily. It was hard to put out the fire. The fire burned for more than 30 hours. People could not stop it. Then it started to rain.

Then people were safe.

After the fire, many blocks had burned. Many houses were gone. People needed to move the burned things out of the way.

They wanted to build new homes.

A leader had a plan: he said they should put the burned things in the lake. Then they would have more land. Some people said that was a waste of time. They should build houses first. But other people said they could do both. They could move the burned things, and they could build, too.

So they did. It was hard work. They put old wood from the fire into the lake and some trash, too. They piled dirt on top, and then they planted grass and trees.

Leaders said the land could be a special place. It would be a park. It was next to downtown, so many people would be able to go there.

They made it a park you can see today. It is Grant Park

where many people go to enjoy concerts.

That was one way that people changed Chicago after the fire.

Five years after the fire, Chicago looked new. People had rebuilt

offices downtown and new homes. The city was as big as it had

been. They used stones and bricks instead of wood to build streets.

They were bumpy but the streets could not catch fire.

Some people complained. They said that wood did not cost as

much as bricks. They wanted to use wood. Other people said that

was foolish, and they made it a law. The city had to be protected.

The leaders did not want to have another big fire.

Each year, more people moved to Chicago. They came to find

jobs. They came to live in a great city.