

Reversing the Flow of the Chicago River: An Engineering Marvel or Environmental Catastrophe?

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Lesson 2: The Chicago River Reversal Project

- Project Map of the city of Chicago (River 1)
- Break students into small groups, give each group a copy of a portion of the Chicago River dredging map (River 2-29) and a copy of the drawings of the altered width of the river (River Width 1-8). Provide [Map Analysis Worksheet](#) from National Archives to analyze primary documents in groups.
- Students get out Graphic Organizer from yesterday's lesson. On the back of paper, make T-Chart comparing Positive and Negative aspects of the project. Use information from the Graphic Organizer, maps, and class discussion to identify positive and negative aspects of the project thus far as a group.
- Using previous groups, (or by combining groups depending on class size) pass out new set of documents. Each group will get one of the following documents: chrivfunding (1-3), chronicleletter (1, 2a, chronicle2a), issuesreport (1-4), publicworks (1-6). Groups assigned roles analyze individual document. They will use the National Archives' [Primary Document Analysis Worksheet](#) to analyze the background of the document – as we discussed with the dumping document from the previous day.
- Based on their document, groups will write a two paragraph describing Major W.L. Marshall. What type of person is he? How does he feel about the project? How does his audience impact his tone and description of the project?