Information for Teachers: The World’s Columbian Exposition

Learning Objectives: As a result of participating in these activities, students will gain an appreciation for the progress Chicago’s citizens had made in the rebuilding of their city between 1871 and 1893. More importantly, students will celebrate that progress, as well as the work they themselves have done during the unit.

Video Clip from City of the Century (PBS, The American Experience): The World’s Columbian Exposition is the focus of a 15-minute clip beginning at approximately 3:56 to 4:10 (Part 3). The clip ends with the assassination of Carter Harrison in October, 1893.

Student Activities for The World’s Columbian Exposition

Note: During this part of the unit there is no writing task. Instead, students should continue to work on their individual projects. You may need to provide mini-lessons and/or individual conference support to help students develop their projects.

The students will take a Virtual Tour of the World’s Columbian Exposition through a link. An alternative is to obtain a copy of a recent DVD titled “EXPO: Magic of the White City” by Inecom Entertainment. The film is directed by Mark Bussler and is 116 minutes in length.

Reading aloud from Richard Peck’s Fair Weather is again appropriate. The Beckett family’s visit to the Fair, including the Midway, is described on pages 62 to 70.