***Tikhonova A. V.***

**CHICAGO - A CITY OF AMERICAN DREAM**

*“It is hopeless for the visitor to try to keep up with*

*Chicago. He outgrows his prophecies faster than*

*he can make them.” –* Mark Twain, 1883

Chicago was only 46 years old when Mark Twain wrote those words, but it had already grown more than 100-fold, from a small trading post at the mouth of the Chicago River into one of the nation’s largest cities, and it wasn’t about to stop. Over the next 20 years, it would quadruple in population, amazing the rest of the world with its ability to repeatedly reinvent itself. And it still hasn’t stopped. Today, Chicago has become a global city, a thriving centre of international trade and commerce, and a place where people of every nationality come to pursue the American dream.

There are so many things to do in Chicago; most people find one visit isn't enough.

Navy Pier and Millennium Park are perennial crowd pleasers. *Navy Pier* is truly a city within the city. With shopping, restaurants, parks and gardens, museums, stages and attractions galore, this Chicago landmark attracts millions every year. Fireworks light up the Chicago skyline twice a week during the summer months, and the 150-foot (45.7 meters) Ferris wheel operates year-round, weather permitting. It's no wonder that Navy Pier is often considered one of the top things to do in Chicago. Though *Millennium Park* is one of the newest places to visit, it has quickly become a destination of choice for travelers and locals alike. With hundreds of free concerts and performances offered throughout the year at the dramatic Jay Pritzker Pavilion; an immense, walk-up-and-touch sculpture known affectionately as “The Bean”; and a 5-acre (2.2 hectares) garden to explore, Millennium Park lives up to the Chicago’s official Latin motto: Urbs in Horto — City in a Garden.

At *the Field Museum*, dinosaur fans can admire the largest Tyrannosaurus rex ever found. Beyond The Field’s extensive rock and fossil collections, visitors can journey through 4 billion years of life on Earth in the Evolving Planet exhibit and marvel over precious stones — from their rough beginnings to sparkling jewelry — in the Grainger Hall of Gems.

With more than 2 million guests every year, *John G. Shedd Aquarium* is Chicago’s most visited cultural attraction. And it’s easy to see why: curious explorers can roam through more than 80 habitats, acquainting themselves with some 1,500 species.

Even in the heart of Chicago, visitors are never far from nature. Skirted by Lake Michigan to the east and threaded by the Chicago River (which is dyed green every St. Patrick's Day), Chicago is home to nearly 600 parks, 90 gardens, and 31 beaches along the 24 lake-front miles of park.

**Do You Know…?**

* Chicago’s nicknames include: The Windy City, the City of Big Shoulders, the Second City, and The City That Works.
* The world’s first skyscraper, the Home Insurance Company, was built in 1885 in Chicago
* The world’s largest illuminated fountain is Buckingham Fountain located in Grant Park.
* The world’s largest parochial school system is the Archdiocese of Chicago.
* Chicago produced the first Zipper in 1896.
* Chicago is the birthplace of fast food giant - McDonalds, chewing gum giant -Wrigley’s & also cell phone giant Motorola.

Chicago’s great magic lies in its mix: sophisticated yet friendly, bustling city streets adjacent to long stretches of green parks and sparkling blue Lake Michigan.

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