



# Virtual Chicago

## Introduction

In Virtual Chicago we are able to explore the development of modern architecture by flying over Chicago, the capital of modern architecture. Chicago is the city that gave the world its first skyscraper and became the site of the most innovative buildings on earth. From historic landmark buildings to today's masterpieces, the city is a living museum of architecture. For the first time, students are able to soar over it all.

## Description

Students use the power of virtual reality to take flight over Chicago with an unlimited perspective. They may choose to view buildings from the ground or fly through the clouds to the highest floors of skyscrapers. They may travel from street to street along Chicago's elevated train tracks or glide above the Chicago River imitating the world famous boat tours.

## Program Contents

Virtual Chicago begins with an introduction to architecture.

Students see how architecture is one of the oldest art forms, found in all societies from prehistoric times, reflecting the values and ideals of its people. From the pyramids of ancient Egypt to the cathedrals of Europe people have strove to create something awe-inspiring. Students experience the skyscraper, the most exciting development in modern architecture. Students witness a skyscraper under construction and discover how a skyscraper is built.

Students learn about different architectural forms and styles by visiting buildings. Virtual Chicago contains over 40 buildings where students may obtain information, from the first skyscrapers to the world's tallest buildings. To broaden students' understanding of architecture, the program includes Modern Architectural Movements from the Prairie Style of Frank Lloyd Wright to today's Architectural forms. Students are able to come face to face with some of the world's most famous Architects such as Louis Sullivan and Mies van der Rohe and their buildings.

## Educational Significance

For the first time, students are able to see the true context of architecture in its element- earth, sea, and sky. The science and art of learning about architecture is transformed from two-dimensional pictures in a book into an awe-inspiring virtual experience. No student will forget Virtual Chicago- a journey of airborne learning.

