Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:

• how United States settlement spread westward after the American Revolution
• how the Illinois Territory became a state and the growth that followed
• Illinois’s role in the Civil War and Reconstruction

Here are some ways that you can help your child learn:

Talk About It

Chapter 4: Growth and Expansion

New territory in the West Following the American Revolution, the United States gained more land in North America. Discuss why it was important for the United States government to make new rules for the territory.

Chapter 5: Illinois Becomes a State

A plan for statehood By 1818, the northern border of Illinois had been moved north to the shore of Lake Michigan. Talk about how this change might have helped to strengthen Illinois’s economy.

Chapter 6: The Civil War

Change and conflict More than 20 years after Illinois became a state, the Civil War began. Discuss how different opinions about the southern way of life led to this conflict.

Make It

Interview questions Work with your child to create interview questions for different leaders of the Civil War era. Suggest such leaders as Owen Lovejoy or Abraham Lincoln. The questions should require each leader to explain his or her point of view regarding slavery.

Read to Learn More About It


The Civil War for Kids: A History With 21 Activities, by Janis Herbert. A look at the Civil War using group activities to show the contributions of women, African Americans, and children during the war.

Technology

Check out www.eduplace.com/ssf for more information.