Answers to the trivia questions:
1. 156 miles
2. Foster Ave. (4 times)
3. 1900 (Jan. 2, 1900)
4. Chicago (about 52)
5. f. All of the above

Grade Level: 6th – 12th
Duration: 10 minutes to 1 hour
Objectives:
1. Students develop observation skills.
2. Students work cooperatively in teams to make discoveries.

Materials:
- Copies of Chicago River Exploration sheet (1 per group).
- Pencil or pen.
- Camera to document finds (optional).

Standards:
11.A.3a, 11.A.3c, 11.A.4c

NGSS:
MS-ETS1-1, MS-ETS1-3, HS-ETS1-2
Chicago River Exploration

How many of the following can you find?  
(1 point each)

Sight
__A Spider  
__A Spider Web  
__A Squirrel  
__A Tunnel  
__Standing Water  
__A Deer Track  
__Scat (Animal Droppings)  
__A Crawling Insect  
__A Flying Insect  
__A Bird Nest  
__Animal Fur  
__Moss or Lichen  
__Woodpecker Hole in a Tree  
__Bird Track  
__Animal Home  
__A Bone  
__A Chewed Leaf (not by you)  
__Something Camouflaged  
__Seed Dispersed by the Wind  
__Seed Dispersed by Animals  
__Something Perfectly Straight  
__Something Perfectly Round  
__Something Beautiful  
__Something Red  
__Part of an Egg  
__Thorns  
__Something Yellow  
__A Maple Leaf  
__A Samara  
__A Tree with Red Bark  
__A Sign of Something Eating  
__A Non-native Species  
__A Twig Shaped like a Letter  
__A River-worn Rock (Rounded)  
__Something a Bird Would Eat  
__One Plant Growing on Another  
__Native Grape Vine  
__Opposite Branching  
__Alternate Branching  
__Tree Roots

Taste
__The Air  
__Fresh Snow or Ice  
__A Pine Needle

Smell
__Tree Bark  
__Mud  
__A Mushroom  
__Pine Needles  
__Snow or Ice  
__A Wildflower (at any Stage)  
__Soil  
__A Decaying Stump

Sound
__A Bird Calling  
__A Barking Dog  
__Running Water  
__Silence  
__Wind Through the Trees  
__A Moving Vehicle  
__A Chattering Squirrel  
__A Squeaky Sound  
__A Pleasant Sound

Touch
__A Pine Cone  
__A Decomposing Log  
__A Tree Seed  
__A Flower Seed  
__Something Wet  
__Something Dry  
__Mud  
__A Rock

Ecology
__Plastic Pollution  
__Paper Pollution  
__Metal Pollution  
__A River  
__A Watershed  
__An Environmental Steward

Action
__A Mammal Running  
__A Bird Flying  
__A Leaf Falling  
__A Cloud Moving  
__A Tree Swaying  
__A Fish Swimming

Trivia Questions?  
(3 points each)

How many miles long is the Chicago River?  
____________________

Within the City of Chicago, what road crosses the Chicago River the most times?  Bonus (2 points): How many times does it cross?  
____________________

In what year was the Chicago River’s flow reversed?  
____________________

What city has the most movable bridges?  Bonus (2 points): How many does it have?
____________________

What is the most important plant or animal in an ecosystem?  

a. Maple Tree (Producer)  
b. Deer (Herbivore)  
c. Raccoon (Omnivore)  
d. Mink (Carnivore)  
e. Earthworm (Decomposer)  
f. All of the above