



It's

FIRE

Prevention Month

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, and roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and **scorching 1.2 million acres** before it ended.



Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado,' some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

TRY THIS:

1. First, determine how many acres are in a square mile. There are _____ acres in 1 square mile.
2. Next, find out how many square miles are in 1.2 million acres. There are _____ square miles in 1.2 million acres. (Hint: take 1,200,000/your answer from question 1).
3. Find the square root ($\sqrt{\quad}$) of your answer from question 2. The square root (rounded to the nearest whole number) is _____.
4. Now let's get an idea of how much 1.2 million acres really is. Visit <http://obeattie.github.io/gmaps-radius/> and in the top left corner, put in your home address. In the bottom left hand corner change the number in the "Radius" box to reflect your answer from question 3. Now, "right click" the flag marking where your home is located and a colored circle will appear. Use the "+" and "-" buttons in the top right hand corner to zoom in or out until you can see the whole circle.
5. How many major towns would have burned down if this fire had started at your house (how many towns are highlighted in the circle)? _____ towns would have burned down if this fire had started at my house.