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teaching  
on  
Lemon Lane

# A Brief History of Roller Coasters

Roller coasters keep getting taller, faster and steeper. How did they get their start? Listen in to learn more!

## Answer key



1. **True** or False: The inspiration for Roller Coasters today got their start in the 1600's before the United States was even a country.

2. Describe the Russian Ice Slides:

**People would climb up wooden stairs as tall as 7 stories tall and slide an ice-block covered in a straw mat down an ice covered slide for 100's of feet**

3. The early French referred to their roller coasters as Montagnes Russes as opposed to the Russians who called them American Hills.

French: Russian Mountains

Russian: American Hills

4. The first actual roller coaster was invented in the United States by :

A. Walt Disney

B. John Miller

C. LaMarcus Thompson

D. A Russian in the early 1600's

5. The first roller coaster made its debut in 1884 at Coney Island. It's name was Gravity Pleasure Switchback Railway.

6. One way that the first roller coaster in the United States is different from roller coasters today is that it

reached speeds of 10 miles an hour and so fast someone can run faster than the cart.

Carts had to be pulled to the top by hand.

- Was not a continuous track

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7. John Miller holds over 100 invention patents. Two of his inventions can still be found on rollercoasters today.

8. Name one of Jon Miller's inventions that is still in use today and describe it's purpose.

- **Safety Ratchet:** keeps coaster from rolling backwards on a steep climb
- **Under Friction Wheel:** goes under the track and keeps carts from flying off the rails.

7. in 1959 the first steel roller coaster opened in Disneyland and was called the Matterhorn Bobsleds.

8. In 1975 the first roller coaster that flips you upside in a corkscrew opened at :

A. Disney Land

B. Six Flags

C. Coney Island

D. Knott's Berry Farm

9. Goliath is a new rollercoaster that reaches speeds of 72 MPH and features a 180 ft drop that is nearly vertical! (straight up and down)



# Roller Coasters

## A Brief History

Roller coasters keep getting taller, faster and steeper. How did they get their start?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Before you listen: Think about what you already know (see slide). Think about what you want to know. Make a prediction about what it might be like. Read through the questions/ vocabulary use context clues to determine meaning.

While you listen: Listen for answers to questions you have. Ask questions. Take notes, doodle, or create symbols pertaining to what you are listening to. When you get bored, tune out, or find yourself zoning out... stand... RE-LISTEN. \*\*\*You don't have to wait until the end to ask questions! \*\*\*

After you listen: Ask if you were able to understand the main idea of the passage. Review your notes. Were you able to accomplish the task correctly? Listen again until no further clarification is needed.

1. True or False: The inspiration for Roller Coasters today got their start in the 1600's before the United States was even a country.

2. Describe the Russian ice slides:

3. The early French \_\_\_\_\_ and their roller coasters as \_\_\_\_\_, as

opposed to \_\_\_\_\_ who called them \_\_\_\_\_.

4. The first actual roller coaster was invented in the United States by:

A. Walt Disney B. John Miller C. LaMarcus Thompson D. A Russian in the early 1600's

5. The first roller coaster made its debut in 1884 at Coney Island. It's name was the \_\_\_\_\_ Switchback \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Give 2 ways that the 1st roller coaster in the U.S. was different from roller coasters now.

7. John Miller held \_\_\_\_\_ invention patents.

8. Name one \_\_\_\_\_ inventions that is still in use today and describe it's purpose.

9. In 1959 the first steel roller coaster opened in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

was called the \_\_\_\_\_.

8. In 1975 the first roller coaster that flips you upside in a corkscrew opened at:

A. Disney Land B. Six Flags C. Coney Island D. Knott's Berry Farm

9. \_\_\_\_\_ is a new roller coaster that reaches speeds of 72 MPH

and features a \_\_\_\_\_ ft drop that is nearly vertical! (straight up and down)