

# CLOSE READING

# DIFFERENTIATED

**Task 1 - Read & Annotate**

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

As you read through The History of Roller Coasters, underline words or phrases that are unfamiliar to you and write important information in the margin.

**First Reading Questions**

1. What is this passage about?
2. Where did the idea of roller coasters come from?
3. Where and when did roller coasters first appear?
4. Where is the fastest roller coaster?
5. What is special about roller coasters?

**Task 2 - Vocabulary**

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

Read The History of Roller Coasters and write down words which are unfamiliar to you and explain their meaning.

**Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper**

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

Reread the passage The History of Roller Coasters and use evidence from the passage to answer the questions.

**Text Evidence Questions**

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
2. List three details that support the main idea.
3. Give 2 details about the history of roller coasters.
4. Cite 2 pieces of evidence from the passage.
5. Explain how roller coasters have changed over time.
6. Explain why some people love roller coasters.

**DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH**

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

TOPIC SENTENCE

DETAIL

DETAIL

DETAIL

DETAIL

CLOSING SENTENCE

**CREATE A ROLLER COASTER**

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

You have been given the task of designing and creating a brand new roller coaster. Decide on a roller coaster name, number of drops and turns, height, and other details. Fill in the information and then draw your roller coaster design in the illustration space.

Coaster Name	
Number of Turns	Number of Drops
Length of Track	Number of Loops
Number of Cars	Level of Intensity
Number of Passengers	Location
Color	Special Feature
Other Detail	Other Detail

**The History of Roller Coasters**

Have you ever ridden a roller coaster? You may think they are dangerous, but roller coasters are actually very safe. Coasters also have an interesting history.

The idea of a roller coaster was first born in Russia. Russians froze water over a 70-foot-tall wooden structure. This created an ice ramp. Riders would sit in a block of wood and ice stuffed with straw. Then someone would push them down the ramp. People from France, France wanted in on the fun. When they tried to duplicate the same ride, though, they failed. This is because France is so much warmer than Russia. In 1817, the French people decided to make a track to ride coasters ever built.

Did you know that roller coasters do not have engines to work? They move by changing potential energy into kinetic energy. Potential energy is what the coaster has when it is sitting on top of the track. Once it begins to roll down the track, the energy changes to kinetic. That is the energy that gives the coaster enough power to get up the next hill. And all those hills are what make the ride so much fun for riders!

Today, roller coasters can go very fast! However, the very first roller coaster ever built in the United States only went six miles per hour. It was called the Switchback Railway. It opened in June 1884 in Coney Island, New York. Although it wasn't very fast, people were happy to pay a nickel for a ride. This first roller coaster made people excited about coasters. Other roller coasters began to be built. Each new ride seemed to get a little bigger and a little faster.

Today, the fastest roller coaster in the world is in the United Arab Emirates. It can reach almost 150 miles per hour in less than five seconds. That's fast! You may not be able to travel so far to ride such a fast roller coaster, but six out of the 10 fastest rides are in the United States. You won't be able to ride for just a nickel, though. Prices to get into most parks are around \$60.

Many people love roller coasters! It is thrilling to ride up so high and then back down so quickly! Not everyone, though, likes roller coasters. Some people suffer from motion sickness. They feel sick when they ride roller coasters. In fact, Ron Toomer, the famous roller coaster designer, once said, "I can't wait for my next roller coaster ride, though I know I'll never ride it again. I can't wait for my next roller coaster ride, though I know I'll never ride it again. I can't wait for my next roller coaster ride, though I know I'll never ride it again."

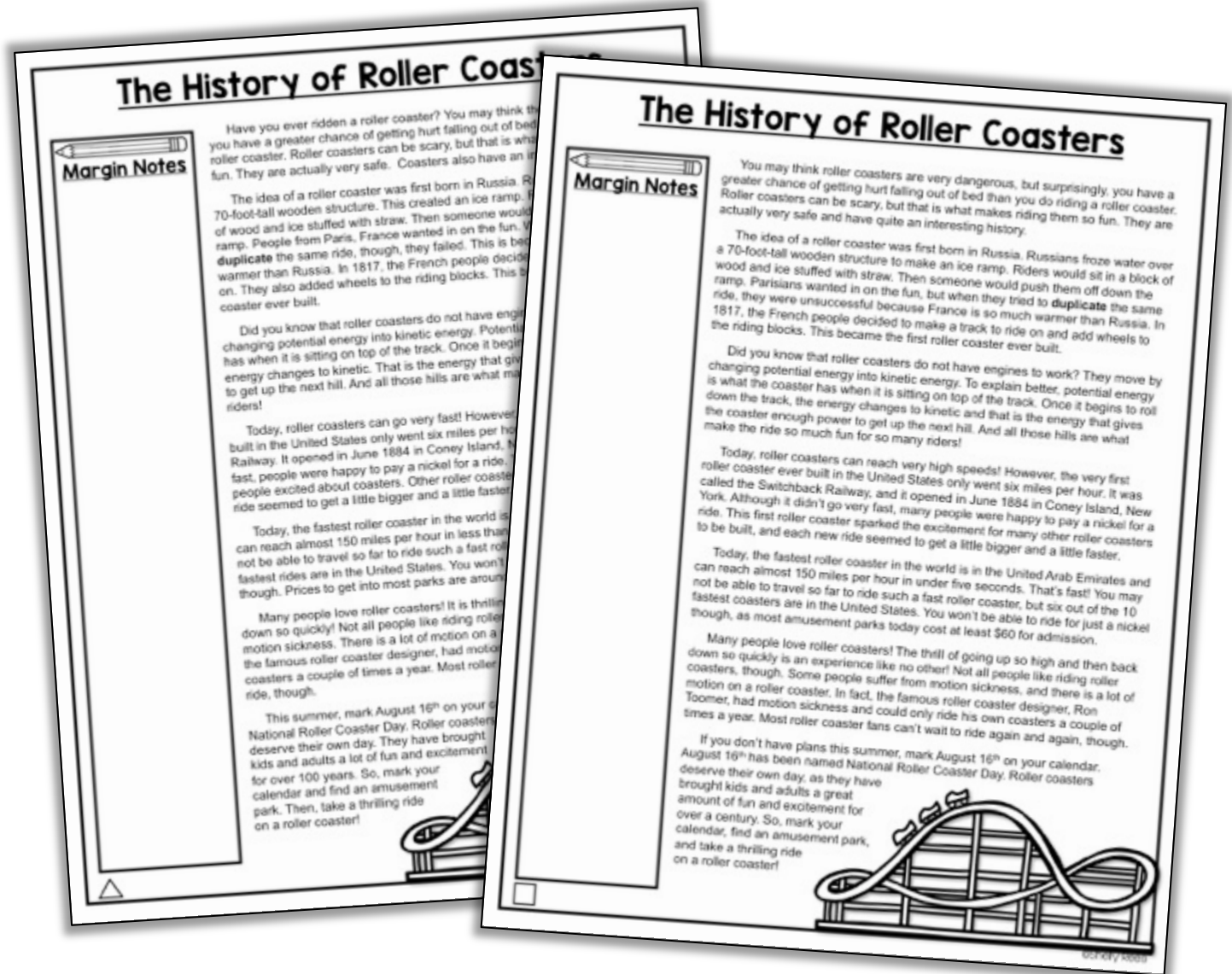
This is why roller coasters are so popular. They are a fun and exciting way to spend your time. If you are a fan of roller coasters, you should definitely visit a roller coaster park. You can find an amusement park near you by looking it up on the internet. You can also find out more about roller coasters by reading books or watching videos. Roller coasters are a fun and exciting way to spend your time. If you are a fan of roller coasters, you should definitely visit a roller coaster park. You can find an amusement park near you by looking it up on the internet. You can also find out more about roller coasters by reading books or watching videos.

# Informational Passage At 2 Differentiated Levels

Reading  
Level is  
given for  
each  
passage.

☒ Grades 3 & 4:  
700 Lexile Level

☐ Grades 5 & 6:  
1,000 Lexile Level







# Reference Chart, Annotating Guide, Close Reading Directions

## CLOSE READ STEPS


The following steps are a suggested sequence in which to approach the contents of this packet. This approach will require 3 separate readings of each passage, requiring students to dig deeper with each reading. Each task of the packet is designed to be completed in one day/lesson. With 5 total tasks per passage, each passage should take one week to complete.



**1st Reading:** Student reads the passage alone. As they read, they use their annotation marks to identify unfamiliar words, questions they have, and parts of the passage that they connect with. Complete **Task 1: Read & Annotate**, which also includes some basic recall questions.




**2nd Reading:** Teacher (or partner) reads the passage a second time while students listen and follow along. Have students complete **Task 2: Vocabulary**. This allows students to gain a better understanding of unfamiliar words from the passage leading to a deeper connection with the text.



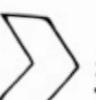









**3rd Reading:** Students reread the passage alone, then responds in writing, citing text. Have students complete **Task 3: Reread & Dig Deeper**. This page of questions allows students to use and cite text evidence when answering questions. Additionally, students will complete **Task 4: Reread Respond** and **Task 5: Summarize**. These tasks will help students to use the text evidence to write a well-constructed and supported summary.

## Annotating Marks



As you read through the passage, make the following marks on your page.

-  **Circle** powerful words or phrases.
-  Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
-  Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question. 
-  Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you. 
-  Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas. 
-  Write your important thoughts in the margins. 

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# 5 Days of Close Reading Activities

[illegible]

# End of Unit Writing Activities

## DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH ORGANIZER

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

TOPIC SENTENCE

DETAIL

DETAIL

DETAIL

DETAIL


CLOSING SENTENCE

## CREATE A ROLLER COASTER

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


You have been given the task of designing and creating a brand new roller coaster. Decide on a roller coaster name, number of drops and turns, height, and other details. Fill in the information and then draw your roller coaster design on the illustration page.

Coaster Name:	Height:
Number of Turns:	Number of Drops:
Length of Track:	Number of Loops:
Number of Cars:	Level of Intensity:
Number of Passengers:	Location:
Color:	Special Feature:
Other Detail:	Other Detail:



## CREATE A ROLLER COASTER

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





# Answer Keys Provided

## Task 1 - Read & Annotate

### ANSWER KEY

As you read through The History of Roller Coasters for the first time, use your annotating marks and write important notes in the margin. Then, answer these questions.

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

### First Reading Questions: *Some answers may vary.*

1. What is this passage mostly about?  
*This passage is mostly about the history of roller coasters.*
2. Where did the idea of the roller coaster first happen?  
*The idea of the roller coaster was born in Russia.*
3. Where and when did the first roller coaster open in the U.S?  
*The first roller coaster opened in June, 1884 in Coney Island, New York.*
4. Where is the fastest roller coaster in the world and how fast is it?  
*The fastest roller coaster in the world is found in the United Arab Emirates. It reaches almost 150 miles per hour in less than five seconds.*
5. What is special about August 16<sup>th</sup>?  
*August 16<sup>th</sup> is National Roller Coaster Day.*

## Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper

### ANSWER KEY

Reread the passage The History of Roller Coasters. Use evidence from the passage to answer the following questions:

### Text Evidence Questions: *Some answers may vary.*

1. What is the main idea of the passage?  
*Roller coasters have an interesting history and have changed in many ways through the years.*
2. List three details that support the main idea:
  - a) *The first roller coaster was made by Russians freezing water over a tall, wooden structure.*
  - b) *The French people made a track and added wheels to the riding blocks.*
  - c) *The first roller coaster in the U.S. only went six miles per hour.*
3. Give 2 details about the Switchback Railway.  
*It went only six miles per hour.  
It cost a nickel per ride.*
4. Cite 2 pieces of evidence from the text that describe the first coaster ever:
  - a) *Russians froze water over a 70 foot tall wooden structure.*
  - b) *Riders sat in a block of wood and ice stuffed with straw.*
5. Explain how roller coasters move without engines.  
*They move by changing potential energy into kinetic energy. Once the coaster begins to roll down the track, the energy changes to kinetic. That energy gives the coaster enough power to get up the next hill.*
6. Explain why some people, such as Ron Toomer, do not like to ride coasters.  
*They suffer from motion sickness.*