

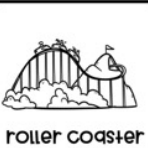





# VISIT A THEME PARK

## THEME PARK ITEMS

Each time a team correctly completes one of the five tasks, they earn one of the 5 theme park main attractions. The item for each task is shown on the top right corner of each task page.

 merry-go-round
  pirate ship

 roller coaster
  bumper cars

 ferris wheel
  tickets

## TASK 1

### Reading Passage

**THE HISTORY OF THEME PARKS**

Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many Americans have traveled far and wide to amusement theme parks for fun and entertainment. Many of the modern theme parks today date back to the old concept of a "pleasure garden," which was just a piece of public land that was for recreation and entertainment. In the United States, the theme parks began to include bandstands, amusement parks, and zoos.

In 1863, the Chicago World's Colombian Exposition created a different kind of amusement park, that focused on shows, rides, and concessions. In the 1880s, Coney Island entered the amusement park scene. It changed from just a beach to an amusement park with its first roller coaster, the Switchback Railway, in 1884. Coney Island opened the first enclosed amusement park called Sea Lion Park in 1895. Coney Island became famous for having several of the known amusement parks in the world. There was Steeplechase Park, Luna Park and Dreamland.

In a small town in Indiana, once known as Santa Fe, the town residents decided to change the name to Santa Claus. As the only post office name "Santa Claus," they started receiving letters from children with requests for toys. In 1947, it was decided to open a store for children with unique purchases in Santa Claus, Indiana.

## TASK 2

### Fact and Opinion

Directions: If the statement is a fact, color the ticket red. If the statement is an opinion, color the ticket yellow.

Disneyland opened to the public in 1955.	ADMIT ONE	The toy shop was the most exciting part of Santa Claus Land.	ADMIT ONE
Six Flags' theme park company has 30 properties in North America.	ADMIT ONE	Louis J. Koch thought of the idea for Santa Claus Land.	ADMIT ONE
Out of all the theme parks, you should visit Holiday Land first.	ADMIT ONE	Six Flags of Texas officially opened in 1961.	ADMIT ONE

## TASK 3

### Famous Rollercoasters

Directions: Use the table below to answer the questions.

Rollercoaster	Height	Speed	Length	Duration	Location
Top Thrill Dragster	400 feet	120 mph	2,800 feet	17 seconds	Cedar Point, USA
Red Force	367.4 feet	112 mph	2,887 feet	39 seconds	Ferrari, Spain
Steel Dragon 2000	318.3 feet	95 mph	8,133 feet	4 minutes	Nagashima Spa Land, Japan
Kingda Ka	418 feet	128 mph	3,118 feet	50 seconds	Six Flags Great Escape, USA
Superman: Escape from Krypton	415 feet	100 mph	1,235 feet	28 seconds	Six Flags Magic Mountain, USA
Millennium Force	310 feet	93 mph	6,595 feet	2 minutes	Cedar Point, USA
Fury 325	325 feet	95 mph	6,602 feet	3 minutes	Carowinds, USA

- What is the fastest rollercoaster?
- What two rollercoasters are located in the same park?
- Which rollercoaster has the shortest duration?
- What two rollercoasters have the exact same speed?

## TASK 4

### Theme Park Timeline

Directions: Write the letter of each event in the empty box where it belongs on the timeline. The first one is done for you.

START      FINISH

1884      1895      1947

THEME PARKS

- Walt Disney opened Disneyland to the public
- Santa Claus Land opened in Santa Claus, Indiana
- Coney Island opened the first enclosed amusement park

## TASK 5

### Word Search

Directions: Find and circle each word related to the Statue of Liberty from the word box below.


steel	cotton candy	bumper cars	prize balloons	hot air balloons
swings	pirate ship	ticket	games	ice cream
roller coaster	ferris wheel			water

P I R A T E S H I P A  
O R H T A Y I G O D T  
P B S E M A G S M O T  
C I B E Y A E P W D A  
D N P M S R A T L  
S T E K C I T U E  
I T M D T Z E J E  
M K Y M A E R Y H  
E C R E A M S B W  
T N S L K E L A S  
O E A N D I L I  
O N T U D L R  
T R E H E O R  
G S W E O E  
A H Y K N F  
R C A R S S

## THEME PARK SEASON TICKET

PRESENTED TO: \_\_\_\_\_

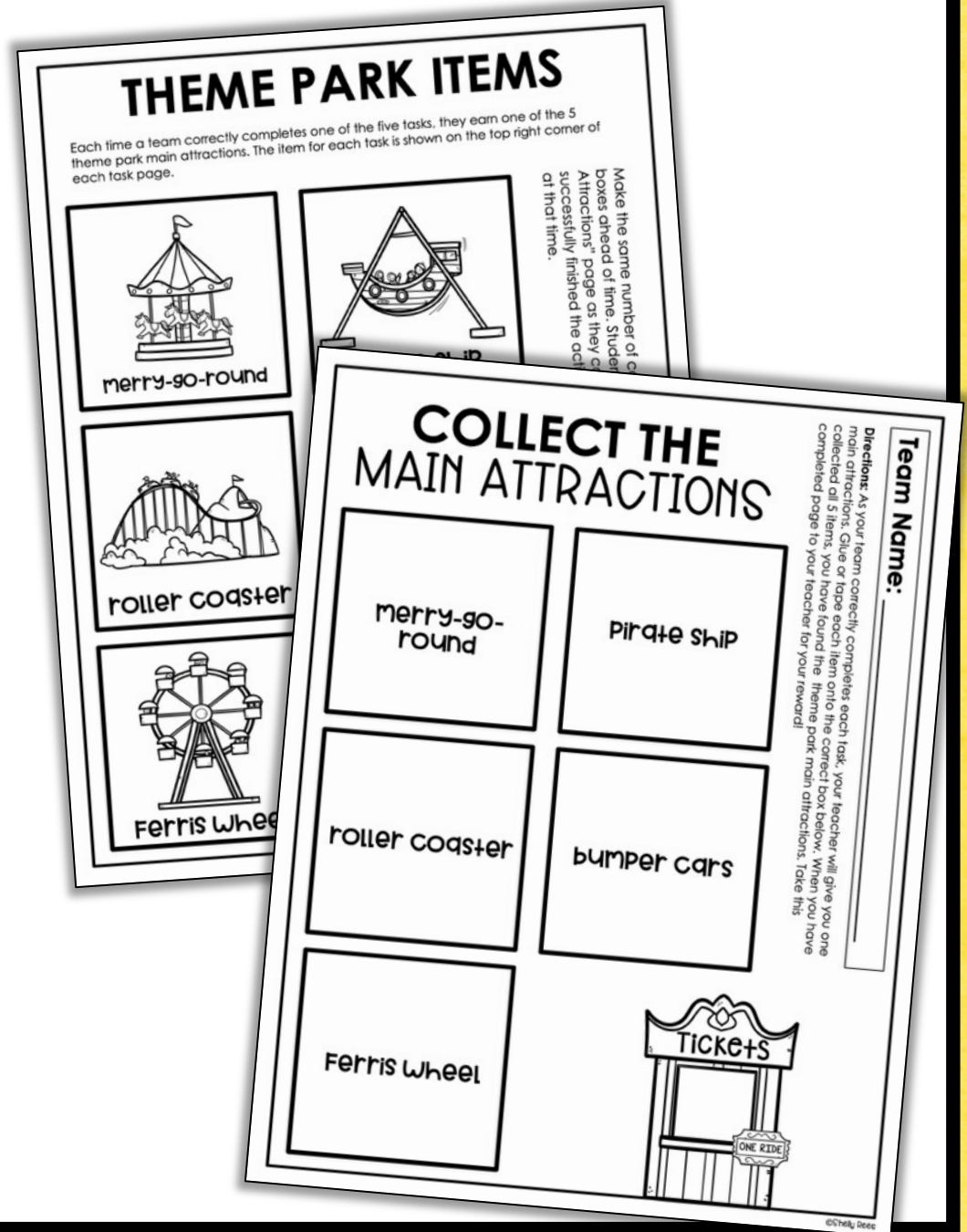
TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



A READING COMPREHENSION ESCAPE ACTIVITY

# ENGAGING, FUN READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE!

- Students have to work in teams (or individually) to complete all 5 reading tasks.
- When they complete each task correctly, they earn a main attraction item.
- Once they have all 5 missing items, they have won!
- The goal is to have all teams complete the challenge.





# Students earn theme park main attractions as they correctly complete each task.

## TASK 1

### Reading Passage

Earn this item



Directions: Read the passage below. Then answer the questions on the following page.

#### THE HISTORY OF THEME PARKS

Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many Americans have traveled far and wide to amusement and theme parks for fun and entertainment. Many of the modern theme parks today date back to an old concept of a "pleasure garden," which was just a piece of public land that was for recreation and entertainment. In the United States, the theme parks began to include bandstands, amusement parks, and zoos.

In 1863, the Chicago World's Colombian Exposition created a different kind of amusement park, that focused on shows, rides, and concessions. In the 1880s, Coney Island entered the amusement park scene. It changed from just a beach to an amusement park with its first rollercoaster, the Switchback Railway. In 1894, Coney Island opened the first enclosed amusement park called Sea Lion Park. In 1895, Coney Island became famous for having several of the best-known amusement parks in the world. There was Steeplechase Park, Luna Park and Dreamland.

In a small town in Indiana, once known as Santa Fe, the town residents decided to change the name to Santa Claus. As the only post office name "Santa Claus," they started receiving tons of letters from children writing messages to Santa. In 1940, Louis J. Koch decided to leverage the town's unique name by creating Santa Claus Land, which finally opened in 1946. The park featuring an Alpine village with a toy shop, rides for children and appearances from Santa himself. In the 1960s, the park evolved to include themes for Halloween and the Fourth of July, and officially changed the park's name to Holiday World.

Walt Disney has been on the scene since 1920's, but in the animated film industry. For years, Walt would visit different amusement parks around the country, which helped him to create his own vision for his theme park. In 1955, the park known as Disneyland opened. Then, it cost \$2.50 for eight rides. Over more than 60 years, the park has become one of the most popular theme parks in the world, with more than 650 million guests.

In 1961, a new park called Six Flags over Texas opened. It was the first theme park to have six different areas, each with its own theme. Now, Six Flags is one of the most popular theme parks in the United States.

Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many people have traveled far and wide to amusement and theme parks for fun and entertainment. Many of the modern theme parks today date back to an old concept of a "pleasure garden," which was just a piece of public land that was for recreation and entertainment. In the United States, the theme parks began to include bandstands, amusement parks, and zoos.

## TASK 2

### Fact and Opinion

Earn this item



Directions: If the statement is a fact, color the ticket red. If the statement is an opinion, color the ticket yellow.

Disneyland opened to the public in 1955.



The toy shop was the most exciting part at Santa Claus Land.



Six Flags' theme park company has 30 properties in North America.



Louis J. Koch thought of the idea for Santa Claus Land.



Out of all the theme parks, you should visit Holiday Land first.



Six Flags of Texas officially opened in 1961.



Coney Island's first rollercoaster



Santa Fe, Indiana changed its name to Santa Claus.



## TASK 3

### Famous Rollercoasters

Earn this item



Directions: Use the table below to answer the questions.

#### FAMOUS ROLLERCOASTERS IN THE WORLD

Rollercoaster	Height	Speed	Length	Duration	Location
Top Thrill Dragster	400 feet	120 mph	2,800 feet	17 seconds	Cedar Point, USA
Red Force	367.4 feet	112 mph	2,887 feet	39 seconds	Ferrari, Spain
Steel Dragon 2000	318.3 feet	95 mph	8,133 feet	4 minutes	Nagashima Spa Land, Japan
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- What is the fastest rollercoaster?
- What two rollercoasters are located in the same park?

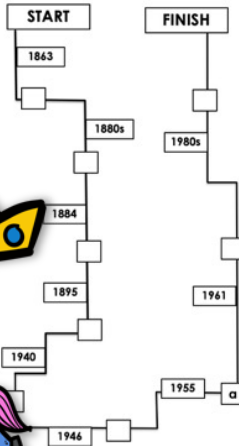
## TASK 4

### Theme Park Timeline

Earn this item



Directions: Write the letter of each event in the empty box where it belongs on the timeline. The first one is done for you.



#### THEME PARK EVENTS:

- Walt Disney opened Disneyland to the public.
- Santa Claus Land officially opened.
- Chicago World's Colombian Exposition created an amusement park that focused on shows, rides, and concessions.
- Louis J. Koch decided to create Santa Claus Land.
- Santa Claus Land changed its name to Holiday Land.
- Coney Island got its first rollercoaster named Switchback Railway.
- Six Flags over Texas was opened in Arlington, Texas.
- Coney Island entered the amusement park scene.
- Coney Island opened the first enclosed amusement park called Sea Lion Park.

## TASK 5

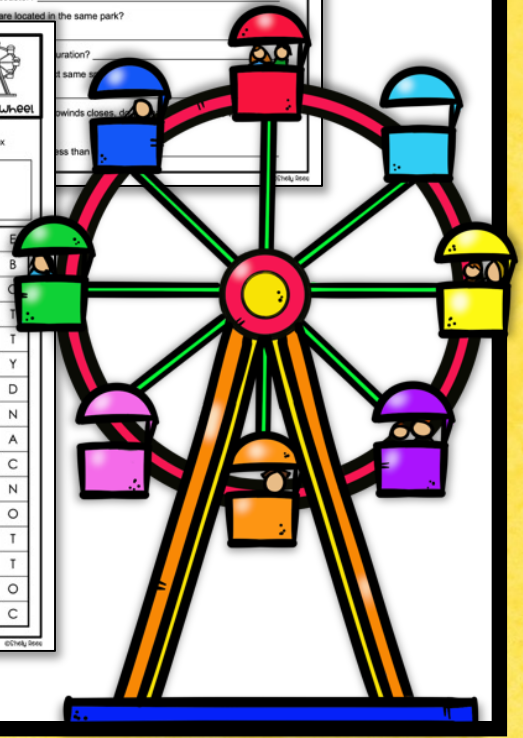
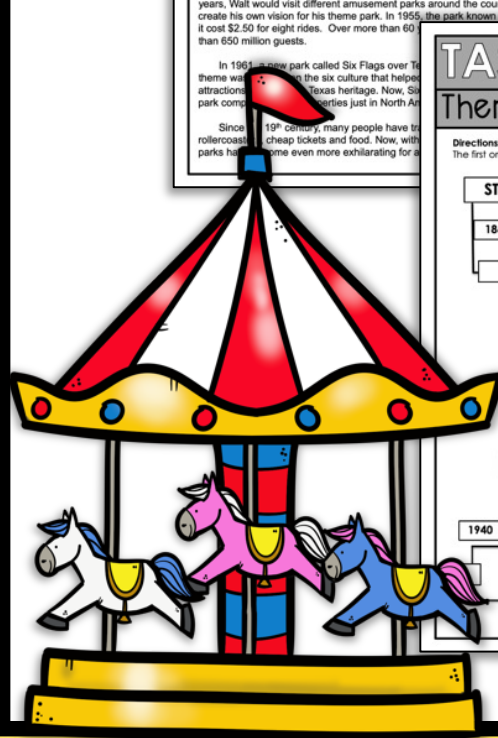
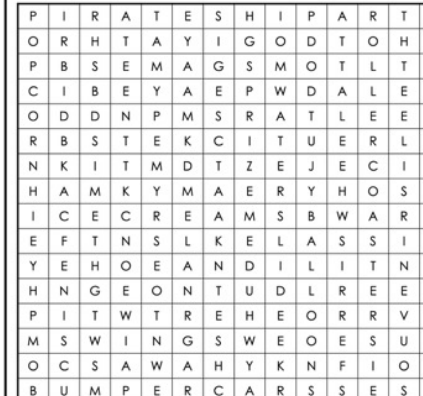
### Word Search

Earn this item

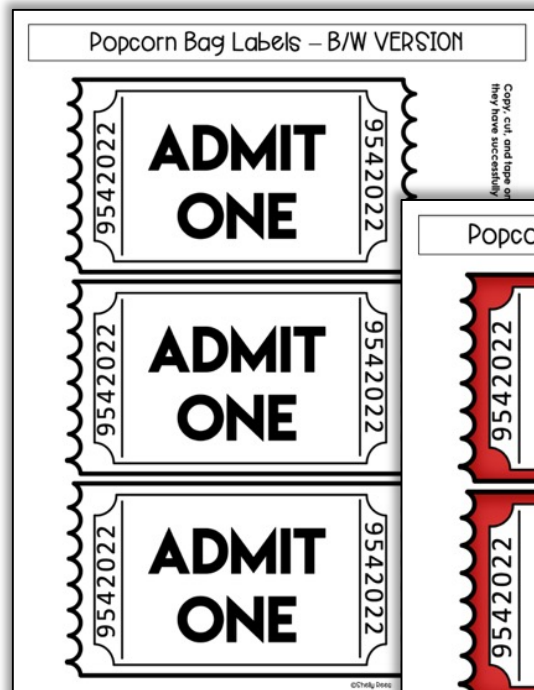


Directions: Find and circle each word related to the Statue of Liberty from the word box below.

steel cotton candy bumper cars prize balloons hot dog  
popcorn ticket pirate ship games ice cream  
swings rollercoaster Ferris wheel souvenirs water slide



Teams finishing the task earn “Theme Park Season Ticket” certificates and popcorn bag labels are included.



Choose  
color  
or B/W!