

Roller Coasters

Imagine: You're on a roller coaster suddenly you're upside down, hair flying in the air. All the people in back of you are screaming. Going down holding on the rail tight, lips going back, eyes tearing from the air. Suddenly with a blink of an eye you are back in the station. This roller coaster blew your mind!

But do you ever wonder how it all started (history) or how roller coasters changed over time?



History

It all started in the 1400 and 1500's when you could only ride the roller coaster in the winter in Russia. They built a 70-foot hill out of wood and covered it with snow. Guides took the riders down the slope. Catherine the great loved the idea - she was the one who started the next generation of roller coaster. Wheels were added to the sled. This helped the coaster be fun in the summer and the winter.

The ice slides arrived in France in the early 1800's. First wheeled coaster premiered in 1804 in Paris. It was not safe because the carriage jumped the track and the passengers would tumble out. Ariel walks were invented Beaujon Garden in 1817. There were guardrails lined with the track.

Between 1817 and 1826 the French government granted myriad of patents for the roller coasters. A design of a coaster was for the riders to hold on to a bar and pull the car up the hill.

In the 1870's the first roller coaster arrived in North America. Richard Knudsen and J.G. Taylor received the patents in the United States.

In the late 1800's the US had the first true roller coaster in Coney Island.

LaMarcus Adna Thomson is the father of the first actual roller coaster. LaMarcus believed that roller coasters are entertainment to the children in New York City.

In 1885 chains were added to the coaster to pull it up. This is the modern coaster being evolved slowly.

Edward Prescott presented a safer loop called the loop-the-loop in 1901. The loop-the-loop failed like the flip-flop.

During the "roaring twenties" roller coaster construction peaked in the US. Amusement parks started to spread across the United States. By 1929 as many as 1,500 wooden roller coasters were made across the states.

The “golden age” ended by the great depression in the 1930’s. Also during World War II in the 1940’s.

In 1948 only 368 amusement parks were left. That is 1,632 less than the 1920’s, because in the 1920’s there were 2,000.

The rebirth of the amusement parks was by a movie maker named Walt Disney. In 1955 the first themed park was Disneyland.

The number of roller coaster in the United State rose from 147 in 1979 to 164 in 1989.

Steel Roller Coaster

Steel coasters are usually the coolest and exiting roller coasters to some people. They can usually do what ever you want them to do. Most steel coasters can do more than wooden roller coasters. But they can do the same things but more faster. They take longer to build than wooden because they need to be shaped from steel and it is not easy to bend steel. People think steel roller coasters are better than wooden because the can do more inverses like loops, corkscrews and many more exiting moves. Almost every amusement park has some type of steel coaster. Ken Dentin thinks the best steel roller coasters is Superman. The Superman is the fastest steel coaster in the world. Maybe this is way Ken likes it so much. Builders make plastic models of the coaster to see what the coaster will look like. They also design it on a computer.



Wooden Roller

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Wooden roller coasters are the very first roller coasters. They are the Americans past time. Due to its wooden structure and how it needs support they can't do inverses the only things it really can do is go down steep drops and can do turns. The wooden roller coaster is classified as a roller coaster with running rails made of flattened steel on a wooden track. The Son of The Beast has a 214-foot drop and a 90-foot

loop. Now the wooden roller coaster is making a comeback.

