




Fairground Rides

The History and Excitement of Fairgrounds

Fairgrounds have existed for hundreds of years. The earliest fairs were held as marketplaces where people could trade goods and enjoy entertainment. Over time, these fairs introduced mechanical rides, making them more exciting and popular.

Famous Fairground Rides:

- **Ferris Wheels:** These giant rotating wheels give riders a high view of the fairground. The first Ferris wheel was built in 1893.
- **Roller Coasters:** Fast and exciting, these rides take passengers through loops, steep drops, and sharp turns.
- **Carousels:** First used to help knights train for battle, these rides now feature beautifully painted horses that move up and down.
- **Bumper Cars:** Invented in the 1920s, these allow riders to drive small electric cars and crash into each other for fun.
- **Drop Tower:** A ride that lifts people high into the air and drops them suddenly.
- **Ghost Train:** A slow-moving ride through dark tunnels filled with surprises.

 **Entertainment Beyond Rides:** Fairgrounds also offer entertainment beyond rides. Many have live performances, including acrobats, musicians, and magicians. Visitors can enjoy fairground food such as hot dogs, popcorn, and candy floss while playing classic carnival games like ring toss and balloon darts.



Glossary

- **Marketplace** - A place where people buy and sell goods.
- **Mechanical Ride** - A ride powered by machines.
- **Loop** - A part of a roller coaster that turns riders upside down.
- **Acrobat** - A person who does tricks and stunts.
- **Magician** - A performer who does magic tricks.

1. How did early fairgrounds start?
2. What was the first Ferris wheel, and when was it built?
3. How were carousels originally used?
4. Name three activities people can enjoy at a fairground besides rides.
5. Why do you think fairgrounds have remained popular for so many years?

ACE Questions

Analyse: How have fairgrounds changed from the past to the present?

Create: Write an advertisement for a fairground, persuading people to visit.

Evaluate: Do you think fairgrounds will continue to be popular in the future? Why or why not?