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• Reading Comprehension Assessment

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

The Incredible Machine

Everyone has a favorite attraction at an amusement park, and I am no different. However, unlike most people who seem to prefer rollercoasters, my favorite ride is a little more gentle. Every time I go to Coney Island, Navy Pier, or the Santa Monica Pier, I absolutely have to ride the Ferris wheel.

The Ferris wheel is simple and yet also quite complex. That is, riding it is easy, but how it works is complicated. A series of carts are attached to a wheel, which is attached to a rim. That rim rotates vertically around an axis, and gravity keeps the carts upright. As simple as the ride seems, only advanced engineers can make safe and fun Ferris wheels.



What It Lacks in Thrills...

While the Ferris wheel is not as thrilling as a rollercoaster, it is still very exciting. The fact of being high in the air makes it so much more entertaining than a lot of rides. I mean, how often do you hang from that high up in daily life?

Nevertheless, I have to admit, I don't seek Ferris wheels out because of their excitement. Rather, I find them very relaxing. At the top of the Ferris wheel, you get beautiful sights of the park. You also get a sense of calm that you don't get in the hustle and bustle of the park below.

Additionally, Ferris wheels are also gorgeous to look at when they are lit up at night. In fact, the original Ferris wheel was designed as much to be seen as to be ridden.

It Happened at the World's Fair

The first Ferris wheel was made by and named after George Washington Gale Ferris, Jr. He designed it for the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. It was the tallest attraction there, standing 264 feet high.

However, visitors to the fair were impressed by the size of the ride as well as the mechanics of it. In 1893, anything that was not turned by hand was considered a sight to see. And the wheel, which was a machine, was truly incredible to see. Further, as one visitor put it, the wheel was amazing because it seemed to be missing support. That is, it did not look like it could stand on its own. And yet it did and even rotated!

They Keep Reaching Higher and Higher

Ferris wheel technology has only improved since then. Most of today's Ferris wheels are much larger than that first one. The largest in the world is the "Singapore Flyer," which stands slightly taller than twice what Ferris's did!

Today, the Ferris wheel is the most common amusement park ride. But that does not mean you should take them for granted. Instead, be thankful for Ferris' invention. The next time you're at an amusement park, don't just look up at the impressive wheel in the sky on your way to a newer attraction. Take it for a spin!

- 1) As used in paragraph 1, the word **attraction** most nearly means
- A. sense
 - B. park
 - C. ride
 - D. vision
- 2) It can be understood that Coney Island, Navy Pier, and the Santa Monica Pier are all examples of
- A. amusement parks
 - B. Ferris wheels
 - C. vacation spots
 - D. boat docks
- 3) As used in paragraph 2, which is the best antonym for **complex**?
- A. impressive
 - B. beautiful
 - C. exciting
 - D. simple
- 4) What does the author like best about Ferris wheels?
- A. the impressive engineering and beauty of them
 - B. the excitement and thrills they guarantee
 - C. the beautiful sights and relaxation they allow
 - D. the fact that most amusement parks have one
- 5) According to the passage, the Ferris wheel was originally designed for
- A. Coney Island
 - B. the world's fair
 - C. Disneyland
 - D. Singapore
- 6) This passage was most likely written to
- A. describe the author's favorite amusement park rides
 - B. explain the original design of Ferris wheels and how they work today
 - C. describe the history of Ferris wheels and why they are so popular
 - D. explain the history of Ferris wheels and why the author likes them
- 7) Using information in the passage, the reader can understand that the tallest Ferris wheel in the world is
- A. under 250 feet tall
 - B. between 250 and 500 feet tall
 - C. between 500 and 750 feet tall
 - D. over 750 feet tall
- 8) In paragraph 2, the narrator says, "As simple as the ride seems, only advanced engineers can make safe and fun Ferris wheels." Can you think of any other machines that seem simple but actually are not? List at least two and explain why they are not actually simple.

Raging River Eagle Ride

Raging River looks as if they just need water and a cart to go downhill, but it actually needs lots of measurements for safety of would people fall out, will the cart fall out, will it sink. Eagle ride feels like you just go in a cage

9) In paragraph 3, the narrator says, "While the Ferris wheel is not as thrilling as a rollercoaster, it is still very exciting." Can you think of any other machines that are not "thrilling" but still "exciting"?

ring on the bottles so basically you throw a ring and it has to go in the bottle, and even though not as thrilling as the excitement of it you're going to be lucky and get a prize makes that more exciting even though it's not as thrilling

10) In the final section of the passage, we learn how Ferris wheels "keep reaching higher and higher." This seems to be a common trend among the developers of modern technology. What makes us want to continually strive to create something bigger and better? Is this good? Discuss.

We want to make it bigger & better, as this makes it more fun and special and more people will know about it and want to ride it, and the more people it gets, it also gets more money and people wouldn't want to make smaller things because it would make most things less fun like you wouldn't want to ride a 2m high Ferris wheel, as it's boring. So people make things like this, so it's original and more special so more people would want to ride it, and people who built it gets more money. This is good for people but not for nature. This will be more entertaining for people to ride and would be good to ride but would be bad for nature as it takes up lots of resources and the planner who needs to make sure there is completely safe for people to use.

and it starts spinning and they also needs many thoughts as how fast should it go or how heavy can person be?

