

Roller Coasters

When it comes to roller coasters, you either love 'em or hate 'em. Here's a closer look at these truly incredible machines.

1) What is the fastest roller coaster in the world?

At <http://www.rcdb.com/ig2832.htm?picture=42> you will find some pictures of the world's fastest roller coaster, in New Jersey (our home state!) Called Kingda Ka, this coaster goes 128 mph, is 45 stories high and does it all in just 15 seconds.



2) Who invented the first roller coasters?

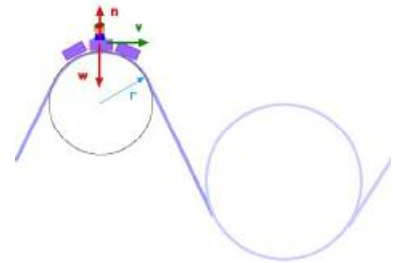
According to Britannica.com, or <http://search.eb.com/coasters/index.html> you can learn about a Russian roller coaster made from icy hills and cut lumber dating back to the mid-1600s (you rode on straw mats). The first such rides with attached cars and a track, however, date back to 1817 in Paris, France with a ride called The Les Montagues Russes.



<http://www.coastergallery.com>.

3) Could you design a Roller Coaster?

There's a lot of math involved with creating a roller coaster, but don't worry. This is fun math. Thanks to sites like <http://www.funderstanding.com/k12/coaster>, <http://kids.discovery.com/games/rollercoasters/buildacoaster.html> and <http://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~cfadd/1150/05UCMGrav/Vert.html> you can make your own roller coaster by dragging and dropping track parts into place. Will your coaster car make it to the end?



4) What do the Thunderbolt, the Beast and the Texas Giant have in common?

All are famous roller coasters from around the country, and each is described at <http://kids.discovery.com/games/rollercoasters/coastervideos/coastervideos.html>. If you're hungry for more photos of cool coasters like the one of the Kingda Ka (upper right), visit <http://www.coastergallery.com>.



<http://kids.discovery.com/games/rollercoasters/coastervideos/coastervideos.html>



A front row view of the world's fastest roller coaster!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HN8nv4tVFuA>

Kingda Ka Front Row Video



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