

Inventing Your Own Amusement Park Ride

Essential Question	What kind of artists design rides for amusement parks?
Grade	1st
Time	45 minutes
Art Concepts	3-dimensional design, sculpture, kinetic art, engineering
Materials	Cardboard (cereal, cracker, pizza box), 9"x12" construction paper, scissors, glue stick, tape, (optional: straws, popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, string, yarn)
Artwork in Focus	<u><i>Krishna and Gopis Ride a Ferris Wheel at a Village Festival, 1825 by Artist Unknown</i></u>
Talking about Art	Have you ever been on an amusement park ride...maybe a roller coaster or a Ferris wheel?

Did you ever think about what kind of artists design and create these kinds of rides? The Ferris wheel is named after the man who invented it back in 1893 for the World Exposition in Chicago here in the United States. This original Ferris wheel was 264' high, about as tall as a 26 story building! But many years before this, smaller, more primitive rides existed. Today we will be looking at an ink drawing of one such ride. *Krishna and Gropius Ride a Ferris Wheel at a Village Festival* is from around 1825, which was about two hundred years ago.

This drawing is pretty amazing with all of its details. In the title of the drawing, it says Krishna is riding the Ferris Wheel. Krishna is the human form of God Vishnu in the religion of Hinduism. Can you find him in the drawing? How were you able to tell? Gopis, also in the title, are followers. Did you

notice that all of Krishna's gopis are women? Other gods in Hinduism are female or gender neutral.

Take a closer look at all the things going on in this scene. Besides the ride, what else do you see? Can you find the musicians? The oxen? The monkeys? Looks like quite a festival!

Because it takes so much imagination and engineering skills, some companies call their team of designers *Imagineers*.

Think of all the technology and engineering required to create exciting but safe rides for families to enjoy.

Making Art

Today you'll design your own amusement park ride! What kind of artists do you think design rides? Because the rides have to be safe for families to ride on, and because there are so many moving parts, engineering is a very important part of the design. But so is creativity and imagination. For this reason, some people call these artists *Imagineers*.

1. Choose a piece of cardboard, such as a cereal or frozen pizza box. This will be the base you build your ride on.
2. Using cut, curved, folded, wrinkled construction paper, experiment with ways to build up your model of a ride.
3. Roll paper into columns to build supports to hold up the main parts of your ride
4. Think about how rides are often made of basic machines, like levers, pulleys, wheels-and-axles. Start with a simple ride, like a chair that lifts high into the air, or a chair that swings. You can add more complicated parts as you like.
5. Challenge yourself to create parts that move to show how the ride works.

Reflection

Did you stick with your original idea, or did it change while you were working? What problems did you encounter? How did you solve them?

Curriculum Connections California Arts Standards for Public Schools - Visual Arts

1.VA:Cr1.2 Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art. 1.Va:Cr2.1 Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design.

Prepared by Larry Ashton with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art Education Department.