

## Title: Ferris Wheel Articles

### From "Ferris's Grand Idea"

Read the following article and then answer the questions on your own paper! For questions 1-4, just write the letter of the correct answer. For question five, write out the identifying sentence from the article.

Daniel Burnham was stumped. He wanted the World's Columbian Exposition to have a centerpiece, something to rival the Eiffel Tower from the Paris exposition of 1889. Not only had the graceful iron-and-steel arc structure become a landmark recognized around the world, but France's engineering talent now looked superior to America's. "Some distinctive feature is needed," Burnham said to a group of engineers at a weekly dinner in 1891. "Something novel, original, daring, and unique must be designed and built if American engineers are to retain their prestige and standing."

Burnham wanted something that would "out-Eiffel Eiffel" ...to draw people to Chicago.

George Washington Gale Ferris, a young engineer from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was present at the banquet that night. Hearing Burnham's words, Ferris recalled an idea he had been working on. He quickly scribbled the design on his dinner napkin. It was something that had never been done before; a revolving...wheel, 250 feet in diameter. It would hold more than 2,000 people in 36 cars attached to the wheel's rim. Each car would be as large as a bus and hold 40 (seated) to 60 (standing) people at a time...

The wheel was not finished in time for the fair's opening day, May 1, 1893, but by June the engineers were testing it. On the first day of testing with passengers aboard, crowds of spectators ignored the engineer's request to stand back. Instead, they rushed the wheel and climbed into the cars for the 20-minute ride. Ten minutes were spent getting passengers off and on. This was followed by a 10-minute nonstop single revolution. Ferris's grand idea was a huge success and wildly popular. It quickly became the highlight of the fair.

It cost 50 cents to ride the wheel, the same as the price of admission to the fair itself. The huge wheel cost \$400,000 to build and maintain during the exposition. That was an enormous expense in those days. But its total earnings during the exposition were more than \$700,000, making a tidy profit for the fair organizers, Ferris, and the investors who had helped him pay for the project.

After the fair closed in October, the wheel was dismantled. It was used several more times, including at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, but two years later it was sold for scrap metal. It took 200 pounds of dynamite to finally knock the huge wheel off its towers.

Ferris's huge structure is gone, but its legacy lives on in almost every amusement park and carnival...Next time you're awed by the views from the top, think of George Ferris and the vision he had to put you there.

1. What is the meaning of the word 'recalled' as it is used in paragraph 3 of "Ferris's Grand idea"?  
A. called again  
B. remembered  
C. came up with  
D. invented
2. What is the meaning of the word 'dismantled' as it is used in paragraph 6 of the article?  
A. moved off a stage  
B. emptied of people  
C. taken apart  
D. traveled around
3. Which of the phrases from the passage best helps the reader understand the meaning of 'dismantled'?  
A. "sold for scrap metal"  
B. "knock the huge wheel off"  
C. "used several more times"  
D. "closed in October"
4. Read the following sentence from "Ferris's Grand Idea."  
***It was something that had never been done before: a revolving...wheel, 250 feet in diameter.***  
What word has a meaning closest to the meaning of the word 'revolving'?  
A. Turning  
B. Standing  
C. twisting  
D. flipping
5. The author of "Ferris's Grand Idea" organizes paragraphs 1 through 3 by identifying a problem that Daniel Burnham had and telling how George Ferris solved it. Identify one sentence that tells the problem Burnham had. Then identify one sentence that tells how Ferris solved Burnham's problem.

5a. Sentence that tells the problem: \_\_\_\_\_

5b. Sentence that tells the solution: \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the following article. Then answer the questions that follow.**  
**From "The Ferris Wheel"**

While the Ferris Wheel was in process of construction many people said they would not trust it. A very old man, leaning on his staff one day and looking up at it, declared: "Life is too precious to be risked in that way." But the Wheel started and nearly everybody is taking a ride; men, women and children are seen going up and returning in safety to their friends. Yet some grow pale and get sick at the stomach during the trip; women cry and become hysterical, and sometimes they faint. For most people it is probably a little trial at the start; but there is a feeling that courage needs a taste of discipline when it fears to go where there is no danger. One can often see a workman carried around on the inside of the rim; when the Wheel starts he walks; when it stops for a moment, he inspects a bolt, or taps the megatherion, with his hammer, just to hear the ring of the monster's voice.

6. Read these sentences from "The Ferris Wheel."

***While the Ferris Wheel was in process of construction many people said they would not trust it...But the Wheel started and nearly everybody is taking a ride; men, women and children are seen going up and returning in safety to their friends.***

How did the author organize the events described in these sentences?

- A. by cause and effect  
B. by compare and contrast  
C. by problem and solution  
D. by order of events

7. Read the following sentence from "The Ferris Wheel."

***One can often see a workman carried around on the inside of the rim; when the Wheel starts he walks; when it stops for a moment, he inspects a bolt...***

What does the word 'inspects' mean in the context of this sentence?

- A. Removes  
B. Tightens  
C. looks over  
D. ignores

8. Extended Response – read the question below and think about the answers to each individual questions before answering them together in a cohesive and encompassing paragraph. Your paragraph(s) will probably be between seven and nine sentences long. The topic of the sentences should FLOW together, you should not simply answer the questions but lead into the answers with fluid transitions. Answer the extended response on your own paper.

***How are the topics of the articles alike? How are they different? How are their points of view different? What are some ways in which those points of view differ? Why would authors write these articles? Use details from BOTH articles to SUPPORT your answers.***