

Rollercoasters

9 The rollercoaster has been a fashionable ride for many
17 years, with one of the first recorded rollercoasters
26 opening in Paris in 1817. Historically, it is believed
35 that the rollercoaster was inspired by sledging on the
43 icy Russian Mountains. The popularity of the coaster
53 did not spread initially. It wasn't until 1884 that the
60 first notable and highly admired rollercoaster was
70 opened in New York, USA, with a runaway train style
80 ride. The coaster ran on wooden tracks and was an
82 instant success.

91 Today, a rollercoaster track can either be a complete
98 circuit or a shuttle-track, allowing the cars —
106 individual or multiple — to run in both directions.
110 Modern rollercoasters are, of
114 course, much faster than
118 the original models and
121 safety standards have
123 notably increased
125 since then.



Quick Questions



1. When did the first well-known rollercoaster open? Where?



2. Find and copy two words which tell you that rollercoasters are well-liked.



3. How do rollercoasters of the past compare with the modern day?



4. Summarise the information about the original rollercoasters in 20 words or less.



The Alien Times



UFO Sighting

3 Recent bright lights
5 and high-pitched
8 whistles have baffled
12 dog walkers in the
15 woodlands of Suffolk.
18 The disturbance has
22 occurred in the same
27 area as the UK's largest
31 ever UFO sighting, in
32 1980.

35 One astonished walker
40 said, "I walk in these
43 woods regularly and,
47 although I'm aware of
51 the unusual history of
55 the place, I've never
57 experienced anything
60 like this before."

64 It seems that someone,
67 or something, might
71 be trying to contact



75 us again, but nobody
80 can fathom why this is
83 happening nearly forty
87 years since the first
90 incident. The 'flying
94 saucer' was in almost
98 the exact same position
103 as the UFO that was
106 spotted in December,
107 1980.

110 Some residents are
113 nervous but many
117 others are excited about
121 the prospect of contact
123 with extra-terrestrials!

Quick Questions



1. Which word means the same as understand?



2. When and where was the UK's largest UFO sighting?



3. Find and copy a phrase that implies the area is known for being 'special' or 'different'.



4. Why do you think some walkers are nervous?
