Who Designs Roller-Coasters?



From DESIGNS and MODELS to BUILDING and RIDING

Sharon Parsons

Nelson Literacy Directions

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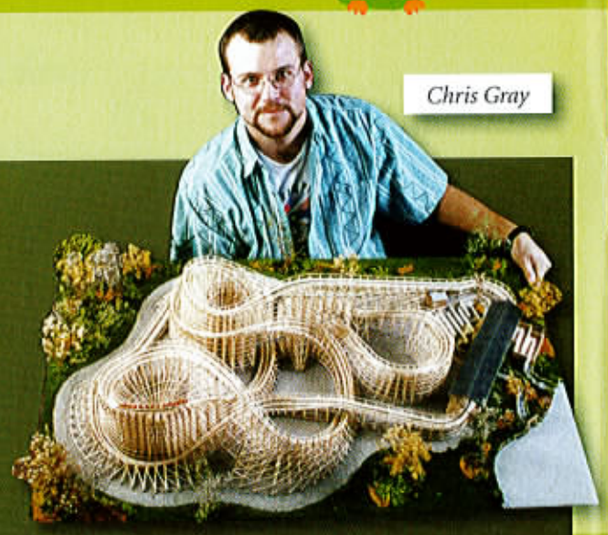
TEXT TYPE Recount

A **Love** of Roller-Coasters

When Chris Gray was eight years old he was fascinated by roller-coasters. He wondered how they worked and how they stayed on the tracks.

From the age of eight, he collected pictures and information about roller-coasters.





Chris Gray

A Dream Job Awaits

Chris's dream job was to work as a roller-coaster engineer. But his parents wanted him to get a different job. Chris never forgot his love for roller-coasters.

In later years, he went to a school to study subjects that would help him work in roller-coaster design.

> "IT'S HARDER TO GET A JOB AS A ROLLER-COASTER ENGINEER THAN AS A HOLLYWOOD SUPERSTAR!"
>
> CHRIS GRAY

THE LISEBERG Roller-COASTER

SWEDEN

For years, Chris carried a picture of his favourite roller-coaster – the Liseberg – in his wallet.

Did Chris ever go to Sweden to ride the Liseberg roller-coaster?

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the Liseberg roller-coaster

LOOK AT PAGE 20

Roller-Coaster Models

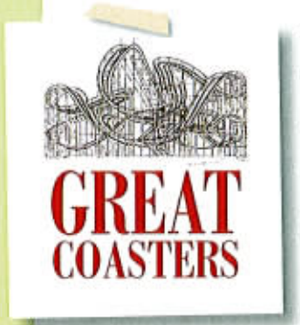
After Chris finished school he started his own business. For four years, Chris made wooden models of amusement rides and roller-coasters for other companies.

Most of all, Chris enjoyed making models for a company called Great Coasters.



Chris with a model in his new business

A Great Logo



Most companies have a logo. Look at this logo and you can quickly see what the company does because it includes a roller-coaster. That's a great logo! A logo may use drawings, photographs, fonts, different colours, and shapes in its design. It identifies or "brands" the organisation or company, or person.

A Dream Comes True

Four years later, Great Coasters employed Chris as an engineer.



the Kentucky Rumbler

Today Chris has a new job at Great Coasters. He is the Director of Procurement and Assembly. He designs roller-coasters and checks if they are built correctly and are safe to use.

Chris often travels to roller-coaster building sites in the USA and Europe.

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Chris's **Story**

Chris Gray says a roller-coaster experience is like a story.

THE BEGINNING

Chris begins by saying, "The beginning is where you see the massive roller-coaster at the amusement park. As you walk closer, it becomes larger, you hear its sounds and those of the people, too! You're feeling excited as you imagine yourself on that roller-coaster."

THE MIDDLE

"The story's middle is the actual roller-coaster ride and all its excitement," adds Chris.

> "A ROLLER-COASTER EXPERIENCE HAS A BEGINNING, A MIDDLE AND AN END."
>
> CHRIS GRAY

THE END

"For me, the end is when you leave the roller-coaster and walk away," says Chris.

Chris finishes by saying, "You have an amazing feeling and you have to talk about it with your family and your friends."

2 Roller-Coaster History

A "Roller-Coaster" on Ice!



an ice slide in Russia

Over 300 years ago, there were ice slides in Russia. They were the first rides that were like roller-coasters.

The person slid down the ice slide in a wooden or ice sled. Sand at the end of the slide, slowed the sled down until it stopped.

History and Social Studies

Great Coasters' History



Michael Boodley

The Great Coasters company is in Sunbury, Pennsylvania, USA. In 1996, Michael L. Boodley and Clair Hain started the company. They have built many roller-coasters with acrobatic track layouts that aim to deliver safe and thrilling rides for everyone to enjoy.

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Science and Social Studies

Thomas Edison Wired in Sunbury



Thomas Edison

Thomas Edison was a famous inventor who was born in Ohio in 1847. In 1883, the city of Sunbury, Pennsylvania in the USA became famous when Edison wired one of the hotels so it could be the first to have electricity. Now it is called The Edison Hotel.

A Laundry Basket on Wheels

Michael Boodley is one of the founders of Great Coasters. He built his first roller-coaster as a boy. He put rollerskate wheels on the base of a laundry basket. The track was made from long wooden boards. His idea for wooden roller-coasters was born!



Michael in the laundry basket on wheels

Thrilling Twists and Turns

Today, Great Coasters is famous for designing and building wooden roller-coasters. Every roller-coaster has twists and turns so people have a ride that is thrilling but also safe!

