Kennywood

A Classroom for Learning

A booklet of worksheets for elementary and middle school students created by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.
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Sources:
*Kennywood Memories*, producer and narrator Rick Sebak, 60 min., QED Communications, Inc., 1990, videocassette.
Your Task:
1. Read the section below on Kennywood's history.
2. Then see what you remember by answering the six questions.

A Brief History of Kennywood

Kennywood is located on an important site. Back in 1755 British General Edward Braddock and 23-year-old George Washington stopped for water and rest on the land that is now Kennywood. They were on an expedition to capture the French fort “Du Quesne,” 10 miles west at the Point.

Beginning in the 1860s, from about the time of the Civil War, the site that is now Kennywood was called “Kenny’s Grove.” It was a popular place to picnic. In 1898 Kennywood was created as a “trolley park” at the end of the Monongahela Street Railroad Company. It was designed as a place where workers and their families could gather for games, rides, band concerts, and food.

In the 1900s, Kennywood was affected by the Depression and two World Wars. During the Great Depression, Kennywood managed to stay open by holding dances and school picnics. During World War II, service men and women in uniform received free admission into the park. Kennywood became an early leader in the “coaster wars” that began in the 1970s, when the New York Times named the Thunderbolt the “King of Coasters.” In 1987, Kennywood was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior because of its historical significance. In 1998, Kennywood celebrated its one hundredth birthday!

1. Why did General Braddock and George Washington come to this area in 1755?
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What did people do when they went to “Kenny’s Grove”?
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

3. What saved Kennywood during the Great Depression?
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Who was admitted free to Kennywood during World War II?
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

5. Who called the Thunderbolt the “King of Coasters”?
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

6. What was Kennywood designated in recognition of its historical significance?
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
Getting to Kennywood: Designing a Mass Transit System

In 1898, Kennywood was built at the end of a trolley line to both attract customers to the Monongahela Street Railway (trolley) company, and to bring them to the new “trolley park.” The trolley car was really the first urban mass transit system. A mass transit system carries large amounts of people to different points in and around the city.

Your task:
1. Please answer the following questions:
   - How did you get to Kennywood today? ____________________________________________________________
   - How do you think people got here about 60 years ago, say in 1950? _______________________________________________________________________
   - How do you think people got here 100 years ago? ___________________________________________________
     __________________________________________________________________________________________
   - Design a new mass transit system for Pittsburgh. In the space below, draw a picture of what your new form
     of transportation might look like. Your system can be made up of several different types of vehicles if you
     like.

Social Studies

Transportation Through the Years

Your task:
Match the written description with the correct illustration.

A. ![ Illustration ]
   1. The invention of this form of transportation caused an explosion in commerce and travel from Pittsburgh to New Orleans.

B. ![ Illustration ]
   2. The French in Canada traveled in this from Lake Erie to the Mississippi River.

C. ![ Illustration ]
   3. This method of transportation allowed for the growth and expansion of Pittsburgh’s suburbs after the Civil War.

D. ![ Illustration ]
   4. Early settlers used this to travel from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh.

E. ![ Illustration ]
   5. This “iron horse” connected Pittsburgh to the Pacific Ocean.

F. ![ Illustration ]
   6. This connects Pittsburgh with the rest of the world, making Pittsburgh an international city.

G. ![ Illustration ]
   7. The Heinz family was the first to own one of these in Pittsburgh. Now, most families in the Pittsburgh region have at least one of these.

Answer Key
1(E) 2(F) 3(D) 4(A) 5(B) 6(C) 7(G)
Getting to Kennywood (continued)

Your task:
1. On the map below, trace the path of your new mass transit system from downtown Pittsburgh to Kennywood.
2. Think about the following questions:
   - Will your mass transit system go under, over, or around existing buildings?
   - How will your mass transit system get across the rivers?
   - What stops will your mass transit system make en route to Kennywood?
   - Will someone visiting Point State Park, Station Square, or the stadiums be able to get to Kennywood via your transit system?

Making a Map of Kennywood

Your task:
1. Pretend that you have been hired by Kennywood to design a map of “Lost Kennywood” for children.
2. Go to Lost Kennywood and, in the space below, sketch the pathways, buildings, rides, attractions, and other landmarks that you see.

3. Back in your classroom, use your sketch to create a map of Lost Kennywood on a piece of poster board.
   - You can include trees, food stands, and even people.
   - Make your map eye-catching and colorful!
Designing an Arcade

What is an arcade?
An arcade is a large building usually located near the center of an amusement park. It has different games — skeeball, “horsey rides,” and racing games — and, traditionally, small, manual motion-picture machines to look into called Nickelodeons.

Your task:
Pretend you are an architect at the Three Rivers Amusement and Coaster Consortium (TRACC). You have been hired to design an arcade at Lost Kennywood. About 100 people should be able to enjoy being in your arcade at any one time.

1. On a separate piece of paper, draw a floor plan (bird’s eye view) of your arcade. You can include a second floor, if you wish.
2. Next, draw the front of the building (an elevation).
3. Draw the other three (or more) sides of the building (also elevations).
4. Add color to your drawings if you wish.
5. Cut out the front and side walls. Tape them to your floor plan and create a paper model based on your drawings.

For inspiration, look at these pictures of buildings that were once at Kennywood.

A First-Hand Account of Kennywood

Families in Pittsburgh have been going to Kennywood for generations.

Your task:
1. Interview at least one friend or family member to learn about his/her experiences at Kennywood.
   Complete the worksheet below.

Interview Worksheet

Date: ____________________________________________________________________________________________
Location: ________________________________________________________________________________________
Name (and relation) of person interviewed: _________________________________________________________________________________

Suggested questions:
1. How old were you when you first went to Kennywood? ______________________________________________
2. When was the last time you went to Kennywood?____________________________________________________
3. How has Kennywood changed over the years? ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
4. Do you feel that some things have remained the same? __________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
5. Why do you think people keep coming back to Kennywood? ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
6. What is your favorite ride? ______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Interview Follow-Up Projects

Your task:
Meet with other students in your class, and create a group project based on facts you discovered during your interview.

Timeline/Skit
1. Create a timeline by writing down all the facts that everyone learned during their interviews. Write and perform a skit based on the events on your timeline.

Kennywood Video
2. Create a video of Kennywood memories, based on information collected during the interviews.

Construct a Model
3. Work in groups to construct models of some of the buildings that are no longer standing at Kennywood.

Publication
4. Publish a booklet of *Kennywood Memories*, based on the student interviews.

Write down any additional questions you would like to ask:

8. Question: __________________________________________
   Answer: __________________________________________

9. Question: __________________________________________
   Answer: __________________________________________

10. Question: __________________________________________
    Answer: __________________________________________

11. Question: __________________________________________
    Answer: __________________________________________

12. Question: __________________________________________
    Answer: __________________________________________
Advertising a New Amusement

Kennywood attracts over one million people every season, because there is usually a new special event or ride and because it’s always fun to return to a favorite, familiar place.

Your Task:
1. Pretend you are an advertising consultant for the Three Rivers Amusement and Coaster Consortium (TRACC).
2. Design a new ride for Kennywood.
3. Develop an advertising campaign that will make everyone want to try your new ride. In your advertising campaign:
   • Create a 30-second announcement for the radio
   • Design a poster that could be displayed in schools

Problems that you notice:

1. ________________________________
2. ________________________________
3. ________________________________
4. ________________________________
5. ________________________________

Solutions to those problems:

1. ________________________________
2. ________________________________
3. ________________________________
4. ________________________________
5. ________________________________

Good things to continue:

1. ________________________________
2. ________________________________
3. ________________________________
4. ________________________________
5. ________________________________

Making Kennywood Even Better

How can we make Kennywood an even better place to visit?

Your task:
1. Walk around Kennywood and write down any problems that you see. Are lines too long? Should there be more food stands? Should there be more restrooms? Do you see litter anywhere?
2. Suggest a solution for each problem. Include drawings, if you wish, that show your ideas.
3. Then write down what you think is good about Kennywood.

Problems that you notice:

1. ________________________________
2. ________________________________
3. ________________________________
4. ________________________________
5. ________________________________

Solutions to those problems:

1. ________________________________
2. ________________________________
3. ________________________________
4. ________________________________
5. ________________________________

Good things to continue:

1. ________________________________
2. ________________________________
3. ________________________________
4. ________________________________
5. ________________________________
**The Potato Patch**

**Your task:**
Solve this story problem.

How many potatoes does the Potato Patch use in one day?

**Helpful hints:**
Read the clues in the information bank below and follow this procedure:

1. During one season, how many pounds of potatoes does the Potato Patch use? _______________
2. Approximately how many pounds of potatoes are used on any one day during the season? _______________
3. Therefore, how many potatoes are used on any one day? _______________

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**Information Bank**

1. Every season Kennywood's Potato Patch uses about 200 tons of potatoes.
2. There are 2,000 pounds in one ton.
3. Assume each potato weighs one pound.
4. Assume Kennywood Park is open 121 days during the season.

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**The Merry-Go-Round**

**Your task:**
Determine how many times the carousel goes full circle in one minute.

To solve this problem:

1. Pick out your favorite animal on the merry-go-round. Write what it is here:________________
2. Next, look at the second hand on your watch. When the second hand approaches the 12 (or 00 on a digital watch), start timing one minute.
3. Count how many times your animal passes by you in one minute.

   **Trial one**
   Times per minute:_____________

   **Trial two**
   Times per minute:_____________

   **Trial three**
   Times per minute:_____________

   **Average times per minute:**_________________

   The number you have is the revolutions per minute (RPM) of the merry-go-round. Compare your number with the number that other students compute to see if they came up with the same number.

**Use this same method to figure out the RPM of the Aero 360?**

1. Choose an arm with “Kennywood” written on it.
2. Locate a fixed point that the arm will pass.
3. Count the number of times the arm goes passed the fixed point in one minute.

   **Trial one**
   Times per minute:_____________

   **Trial two**
   Times per minute:_____________

   **Trial three**
   Times per minute:_____________

   **Average times per minute:**_________________

   RPM of the Aero 360:_____________

---

**Answer Key**

3,306 potatoes

1. 40,000  2. 3,306  3. 3,306
Kennywood After Dark

When you leave Kennywood, do you wonder what happens when all the lights go off and everyone goes home? Is Kennywood really deserted, or does a second shift of visitors arrive after the first shift leaves? (Maybe those who have visited Kennywood in the past like to keep coming back!)

Your Task:
Be imaginative! Write a short story about what you think happens when Kennywood closes. You can write a story that’s spooky, silly, or fantastic—be creative!

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