

Did you know?

World Fun Fair Month



Roll up! Roll up! For the second year, the world famous *Oktoberfest* has been cancelled, but don't let that stop you enjoying some fun of the fair this September.

Like other areas of the entertainment industry, fun fairs have been hit hard by the COVID epidemic. So, in order to revitalise the sector and invite the

public to have some enjoyment, *World Fun Fair Month* is taking place this September. It gives people the opportunity to have a fun day out with all the family and celebrate not just the fairs themselves, but also discover something of the cultural heritage of the workers.

Most of us know the fairs that come to town every year on particular weeks, the best known of which is Munich's own *Oktoberfest*. Although the *Oktoberfest* has a 200-year history, there are other fairs that have even longer histories; The *Lullusfest* in Bad Hersfeld, for example, was founded over 1200 years ago, the *Nottingham Goose fair* was founded almost 850 years ago and there are many other fairs in Europe which have their roots in medieval times. For hundreds of years, fairs have been travelling through the countryside appearing in our towns and cities in the same weeks every year.

Travelling fun fairs (known as traveling carnivals in the US) have changed over the years. In the distant past, the fairs were often associated with the hiring of agricultural labour, but over time the amusement side became more important. In the nineteenth century fairs were often used to show modern technological inventions such as electricity, films and the combustion engine. Many visitors would have experienced their first glimpse of a motor car at a travelling fair. This was also a time of freak shows and waxworks, and also the presentation of wild beasts known as menageries.

The introduction of steam-powered roundabouts in the 1860s revolutionised fairs and the technological developments over the following years led to steam yachts, switchbacks and the famous 'Gallopers' merry-go-rounds. Mechanisation allowed the introduction of more and more rides and resulted ultimately in what we now associate with fun fairs – the fun-packed amusements from white-knuckle rides to spooky ghost trains; from dodgems to Ferris wheels.

If you would like to use *World Fun Fair Month* as a topic in your class, then we have provided you with an activity **Fun fair rides**.

And if you want to remind yourself what it feels like to be at the *Oktoberfest*, then click here to see the rides from 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2W4GZONR0Lw>

Fair © Shutterstock (Real Window Creative)

Fun fair rides

Teacher's notes

Fun fair rides

- Make a copy of **Fun fair rides**, one for each student.
- On the board write *fun fair* and ask students what this word means (*Volksfest* or *Jahrmarkt*) Ask students if they like fun fairs.
- Hand out the worksheet **Fun fair rides** and tell students to work in pairs (or if you are online, then use one Breakout room for each pair of students).
- Check answers together in class.
- **Key:** 8a, 1b, 4c, 7d, 3e, 2f, 6g, 5h
- Then ask students to work in pairs and ask each other the questions.
- Help with vocabulary. You may need:
exciting/excited, frightening/frightened, nervous, fast, upside-down, to feel sick, to feel dizzy, to spin round, to be afraid of heights.

Did you know?

Worksheet

Fun fair rides

Match the picture with the right words.

- ___ a Roller coaster ___ b Log flume ___ c Ferris wheel
___ d Dodgems ___ e Helter Skelter ___ f Merry-go-round
___ g Ghost train ___ h Chair-o-planes

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



Look at the pictures of the fun fair rides. Work with a partner.

- Have you been on any of these rides? Did you enjoy the ride? Why/why not?
- At the fun fair do you like eating candyfloss? (*Zuckerwatte*)
- Do you like eating toffee apples? (*kandierte Äpfel*)
- Do you like drinking beer?

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