

Name: _____ Date: _____

“Yesterday & Today” Quiz

Directions: Read the “Yesterday & Today” article in the October 2008 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. What does the word “throng” mean in the first sentence of the article?

- (A) sports team
- (B) long line
- (C) small group
- (D) crowd

2. How fast did the Switchback Railway go?

- (A) 50 mph
- (B) 100 mph
- (C) 6 mph
- (D) 12 mph

3. Which of the following influenced LaMarcus Thompson in creating his Switchback Railway?

- (A) Russian ice slides
- (B) frontier railroads
- (C) P.T. Barnum’s circus
- (D) modern elevators

4. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the X2?

- (A) flashing lights
- (B) fog
- (C) 360-degree turns
- (D) rickety wooden tracks

5. How high does the Kingda Ka go?

- (A) 121 feet
- (B) 456 feet
- (C) 360 feet
- (D) 1,600 feet

6. How many people are injured per year on roller coasters?

- (A) 1.8 billion
- (B) 1,800
- (C) 9,000
- (D) 600

7. After reading this article, what can you conclude about many people’s feelings toward roller coasters?

- (A) They want greater and greater thrills.
- (B) They have lost interest in roller coasters.
- (C) Roller coasters are only for kids.
- (D) They think roller coaster are too dangerous to ride.

8. How did the Switchback Railway start its course that was different from roller coasters today?

- (A) It started below ground and shot up.
- (B) It started at the top and went down.
- (C) It went straight before going up.
- (D) It started with corkscrew turns.

Critical Thinking

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answers in well-organized paragraphs. Make sure you support each answer with information and details from the article!

9. Why was LaMarcus Thompson known as “the Father of Gravity”?

10. What has been the attraction of roller coasters from their invention until now?