

## Did you know?

- In the UK, many larger towns host travelling fairs at specific times of the year. Fairgrounds have a history that dates back to the Middle Ages.
- Dyrehavsbakken (The Deer Park Hill) is an amusement park near Klampenborg in Denmark, about 10 km north of Copenhagen. It opened in 1583 and is the world's oldest operating amusement park.
- The human body can handle increased g-forces, as shown in activities including dragster racing, aeroplane acrobatics and space training. Humans can withstand at least 45 g ( $400 \text{ m/s}^2$ ) as proven by g-force pioneer, John Stapp.
- In 2010, 102 roller coaster enthusiasts set a new world record at Adventure Island in Essex – the largest number of people riding a roller coaster in the nude!
- Wooden roller coasters rarely go upside down, unlike steel roller coasters. This is because wood is not as flexible as steel.
- Acceleration is measured in g-forces, where 1 g is equal to the force of acceleration due to gravity near the Earth's surface ( $9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ ). Some roller coasters have been known to include g-forces of around 4–6 g.
- The pendulum was discovered around 1602 by the Italian physicist, Galileo Galilei. During the 17th century, pendulums were mainly used for timekeeping.
- The Pleasure Beach at Blackpool had a dodgem-style machine in 1913 called Witching Waves, where a complex arrangement of tilting floor panels created motion.
- Rides that run with single cars are known as 'wild mouse' roller coasters.
- In most Latin languages, 'Russian mountains' is the term used for a roller coaster. Ironically, the Russian term for roller coasters is 'американские горки' ('amerikanskiye gorki'), which means 'American mountains'. How confusing!
- In Japan, roller coasters are known as jet coasters.
- 'The Cyclone' is a historic wooden roller coaster that opened on 26th June, 1927 at Coney Island in Brooklyn, New York. Reports say that Emilio Franco, mute since birth, regained his voice after riding and uttered his first words: 'I feel sick!'

