

# ChicagoHistoryMuseum

## Taking a Ride at the World's Fairs

### READ:

Chicago has held two World's Fairs. Before the internet and social media, World's Fairs were a time when people from many different countries came to one place to see new inventions, and learn about science, history and other cultures. They were also places to have fun! Think about your favorite ride at the amusement park. Just like amusement parks today, visitors to World's Fairs were able to try new and amazing rides. The fair in 1893 was the very first time people got to ride a Ferris wheel! At the fair in 1933, visitors were thrilled to zoom across the Skyride. To share their fun times, visitors sent their friends postcards. Post cards are small cards with a picture on one side and a note on the other that can be delivered through the mail.

### DO:

What kind of ride would you want to go on at the World's Fair?

- **Look** at the pictures of the Ferris Wheel and the Skyride.
- **Draw** a picture of one of the rides or **Create** your own ride!
- **Build** your new ride with your building toys!
- **Write** a postcard telling a friend or family member about the Ferris Wheel, Skyride, or Your NEW ride (don't forget to give it a name!)  
You can use the template or send an email with pictures!

**Approx. Time** — 30 minutes

#### Materials:

- ⇒ Paper for postcards
- ⇒ Drawing Materials
- ⇒ Optional: Building toys

### SHARE:

- **Describe** your new ride to your family!
- **Post** pictures of your drawings, ride models, and postcards on Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #CHMatHomeFamilies to see what others have created. Make sure you tell us how your ride works if you created your own!



ICHI-66851

Souvenir button for people who attended both the 1893 and the 1933 World's Fairs in Chicago.



The Ferris wheel was invented in 1893 by George Washington Gale Ferris. He was an engineer and bridge builder. This Ferris wheel was 264 feet tall and had 60 cars. Each car was the size of a school bus and could carry 60 passengers. IChi-73008

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SKY RIDE, CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR



3A-H517

The Skyride at the Century of Progress World's Fair in 1933 and 1934. The towers were 628 ft tall. In the center at approx. 215 feet are the rocket shaped cars which took people from the main part of the Fair to the exhibitions on Northerly Island. Each car carried 36 people! ICHI-35814

*Illustration of* \_\_\_\_\_

*Wish you were here . . .*



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