



Stella is reading a biography about the inventor of the Ferris wheel.

All about George Washington Gale Ferris

George Washington Gale Ferris was an American engineer. He is the inventor of the Ferris wheel.

George was born in 1859. When he was just a boy, he lived near the Carson River, Nevada. He was fascinated with a large underwater wheel at a bridge on the river. He imagined what it would be like to ride around it using buckets.

In 1880, George graduated with a degree in civil engineering. His career began in New York City where he designed bridges and tunnels. Later, he started his own business that tested and inspected metals for railways and bridges.

In 1891, George attended an engineer's banquet. The host challenged the engineers to design a structure as remarkable as the Eiffel Tower in Paris. George's imagination began to play with several ideas involving different shapes. Others thought his proposal was unachievable so George used his own money to make the Ferris wheel. On 21 June 1893, the Ferris wheel opened with 36 cars at a fair, which could accommodate over 2000 riders at a time. It made him a lot of money and he became famous in the engineering world.

When the fair closed, George became addicted to building a bigger and better wheel. However, there were no buyers. He became so depressed that even his wife left him. In 1896, he died with no one by his bedside.

1. Underline the name of the biographer.
2. Circle the years marking the events in the biographer's life.

Date: _____

A Choose the best answer by blackening the circle.

1. How did the other engineers think about George Ferris' idea shared at the banquet?

- A. They wanted to copy his design.
- B. They hoped to work with him.
- C. They did not believe in him.
- D. They took actions against him.



2. How old was George Ferris when he died?

- A. 37 years old
- B. 59 years old
- C. 75 years old
- D. 96 years old

3. Which adjective(s) best describe(s) George Ferris?

- I. creative
 - II. obedient
 - III. outgoing
 - IV. persistent
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. I and IV
 - D. I, III and IV



Find the examples that show his personality.

B Answer the questions in complete sentences.



4. What did George Ferris study in university?

5. Was George Ferris happy? Why or why not?



Find the keywords related to studying or university.

C Identify the main idea of each paragraph in the biography. Write the numbers in the table.

Main idea	Paragraph
6. George's childhood and early life	
7. George's later life and death	
8. George's education and career	
9. Brief introduction on George Washington Gale Ferris	
10. George's remarkable achievements	