

ENRICHMENT GUIDE

Ride the **CYCLONE** **THE MUSICAL**

HIGH SCHOOL
EDITION

Sponsored by

PROUD CORNERSTONE MEMBER



UNITEDPERFORMINGARTSFUND



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THEATER

DEAR FIRST STAGE FRIENDS,

In this hilarious and outlandish musical, the lives of six teenagers from a Canadian chamber choir are cut short in a freak accident aboard a roller coaster. When they awake in limbo, a mechanical fortune teller invites each to tell a story to win a prize like no other – the chance to return to life. With music showcasing various musical genres—from glam rock to pop to rap and folk—buckle up for a funny, moving look at what makes a life well-lived!

Enjoy the show,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Brinn Hill". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Brinn" and "Hill" being capitalized and prominent.

Brinn Hill
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CONTENT ADVISORY

Best enjoyed by teens and theatre lovers of all ages!

Best enjoyed by teens and theater lovers of all ages!

Every child is different and may or may not be ready for certain elements of each production. Read more about this show's age recommendation below.

Audiences will be enthralled by the music, mystery, and mayhem of Ride the Cyclone.

The performance is expected to run approximately 2 hours plus a brief intermission - audiences younger than 13 may have difficulty staying connected to the story.

The show contains mature content, language and themes including discussion of untimely death and mature situations including references to sex, drugs, and violence.

There will be flashing lights, video projections, and loud music and sounds that may be overwhelming for those with sensory sensitivities. We offer sensory kits for patrons who may need them.

Karnak is revealed on stage. He is a 1920's penny arcade fortune-telling machine. Karnak reveals that he can predict the exact cause, time and place of someone's death. He can even predict his own demise; it'll happen in a little over an hour once a rat (that Karnak has named Virgil) completes chewing through the power cable of his own machine. (Dream of Life Opening) Karnak introduces the Saint Cassian Chamber Choir of Uranium City, Saskatchewan. We witness the choir coming to life before our very eyes. While the choir performs, Karnak reveals that he read all the children's fortunes and even suggested they ride the Cyclone roller coaster. On Monday, September 14th, they would board the roller coaster at 6:17pm. At 6:19pm the coaster's front axle would break causing it to derail at the top of the loop-de-loop, hurtling the children to their demise. (Uranium)

The choir is confused as to where they are and how they got there when Karnak appears before them. Karnak tells the choir that one worthy contestant will be selected to come back to life and live beyond the Cyclone accident. One of the choir students, Ocean, asks Karnak why only one person can come back and not all of them. Karnak replies that he has only ever possessed the power to bring one choir member back from the dead. After asking what they must do to be selected, Karnak says, "The one who wants to win it the most shall redeem the loser - in order to complete the whole". Confused, Ocean asks another question only to be told that she has successfully used up the group's only three questions. We are introduced to the rest of the choir when we meet Jane Doe, a headless child who was found in the Cyclone accident. No parent came to claim her body, so she was deemed 'Jane Doe' at the scene. Jane Doe has no memory prior to the accident and does not know her own name.

One of the choir members, Ocean Rosenberg, is selected by Karnak to go first in pleading her case for a second chance to live. Karnak reveals that Ocean comes from a family who are far-left, compost, and live a carbon-free lifestyle. Ocean is the most 'successful' girl in town and is a straight A student as well as their High School's president.

Ocean even has a speech prepared for this very occasion she proclaims but decides to plead for her life with her heart. Oceans believes she is the best person in the room but it's against her Buddhist religion to put herself above another's life, Karnak believes she has conceded but then Ocean tries to convince him why she deserves to come back. After Ocean completely throws everyone around her under the bus in order to look better, Karnak reveals that whoever is brought back will be decided on a unanimous vote from the choir. (What the World Needs)

Up next is Noel Gruber, a nihilism loving child who loves to act out French New Wave Cinema and who is incredibly romantic in unconventional ways. Noel believes he was born in the wrong era, and even the wrong country. Noel dreams of having philosophical discussions with starving poets, wearing berets, far from his hometown of Uranium City. Noel was working at a Taco Bell and saving money to move to France. (Noel's Lament) After Noel's French crime number, Ocean feels frustrated with the material of his performance. She asks, "What was the lesson?" to which Karnak responds, "Not every story has a lesson, Ocean". Ocean proclaims that every story must have a lesson, EVERY story. (Every Story's Got a Lesson)

Mischa Bachinski steps forward. Mischa is from a little town in Ukraine and was placed for adoption when his mother died of prolonged exposure to Uranium. His mother forged his adoption certificate, and his Canadian parents were shocked to see their 'two-year-old' adopted son had a five o'clock shadow. His parents kept Mischa in the basement which resulted in a hip-hop obsession fueled by rage and lack of love and affection. Mischa is known as the angriest boy in town. Just before the accident, Mischa was saving money to move back to Ukraine to be with his fiancé Talia. (This Song is Awesome) Mischa takes a break from his hip-hop alter ego and shows us his softer side; and sings of his fiancé Talia. (Talia)

Mischa asks Ricky Potts to go next as he wipes away his tears. Ricky hesitates, but lets the choir know that on another planet he is practically a prophet. There's a plant named Zolar in the Zolarian Starcluster where all who inhabit it have evolved from cats. Karnak reveals Ricky to be the son of a Pentecostal pastor who took Ricky on tour with him throughout the province with their pet viper JoJo. However, Ricky was witness to JoJo lethally biting his father and the experience left him traumatized as well as losing his power of speech. Ricky ended up with his grandparents where he oversaw feeding their 19 cats. Ricky's lack of speech gave him a wildly creative imagination fueled by his love for comic books, after all, he was always his own best friend. (Space Age Bachelor Man)

From the excitement of Ricky finally speaking, Constance declares her happiness and swears she will never come down! However, Jane Doe steps forward and proclaims it is her turn. Timid, the choir lets her go next. Everyone knew everyone in Uranium, but no one could recall Jane Doe. The one person who could've shined a light, the choir conductor Father Markus, died of a heart attack shortly after the accident. Karnak says that he never read Jane's fortune and does not know how or why she was on the coaster at the time of the accident. All we know for certain was there was a body found dressed in a Saint Cassian uniform, without a head. (The Ballad of Jane Doe) The Choir members all gather around Jane with a cupcake and candle. Lighting up the darkness they sing a new birthday song for Jane. (The New Birthday Song) The Choir then gives Jane Doe the temporary name, Savannah. Ocean and Constance agree that Jane has the most heart wrenching story out of them all. But just as they agree on something, Ocean and Constance begin to argue, ending with Constance slugging Ocean on the shoulder.

Constance Blackwood is the last choir member to plead her case. Karnak shares that Constance won 'nicest girl in homeroom' three years in a row. Her family owned the Blackwood Café in town; the Backwoods have been in Uranium since 'forever' explains Constance. Constance and her family were

proud of their café until Constance went to high school, and she became ashamed. Constance thought her mother was a dead-end loser in this 'stupid dead-end town'. Constance knew her parents were good people but all she could think about them were horrible things. Constance was bitter that her parents taught her working, living and dying in Uranium was okay. She then rode the Cyclone with the choir kids and that's when the accident happened. Constance takes the audience through her firsthand experience on the coaster during the accident. As she soared through the air with her fellow students, she realized there was no shame in loving her small town. Constance realizes the irony of it taking a horrible accident to show her how wonderful everything truly is. (Sugar Cloud)

Karnak announces that Ocean shall have the final vote of who lives or dies. Ocean questions why her when Karnak explains that he has decided whoever has the highest grade point average shall cast the final vote. Ocean questions the moral of the story if she simply votes for herself and demands that every choir member gets a chance to cast their vote. Karnak then reveals the 'other side' to Ocean and tells her to walk on and not look back. Ocean shares that Jane is most deserving of coming back to life because she doesn't have any memories of her life as opposed to the rest of the choir members. The choir votes unanimously. Jane Doe gets a second chance at living. Karnak reveals Jane's name: Penny Lamb. (It's Not a Game)

Karnak meets his demise and shuts off. However, the kids are still on stage. They are confused, excited and wondering why they are still there if Karnak has shut off. (Sailing Through Space Reprise) (It's Just a Ride)

PRESHOW QUESTIONS

1.The Amazing Karnak is a fortune telling machine at an amusement park. If you could ask a fortune telling machine a question, what would you ask it? What would you hope the fortune telling machine would reveal to you?

2.Ride the Cyclone tells the story of a fieldtrip to the amusement park gone wrong. What unusual topic would you like to write a musical about? Why? What would happen in your musical?

3.Ride the Cyclone features music from many genres. How do you think different genres of music can represent different characters or personalities? What genre(s) of music do you think are best for storytelling? What genre of music would you choose to tell a story about your life?

PERSONAL NARRATIVE LAMENT

A MUSIC AND WRITING ACTIVITY

Throughout Ride the Cyclone, each character shares their “lament” or an expression of grief and sorrow, which states their case as to why they think they should be the one to be brought back to life. When we write stories about our own experiences, that is called a Personal Narrative. Below you will find sheet music with space to write your own Personal Narrative Lament lyrics. Think about what story from your life you would tell in a lament. If you’d like share with the First Stage Education team at education@firststage.org!

The image displays three staves of musical notation for a Personal Narrative Lament activity. The first staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a rehearsal mark [1, 2, 3] and a measure rest. The second staff continues the melody with a measure rest labeled 1-4. The third staff begins with a rehearsal mark 6 and continues the melody. The fourth staff begins with a rehearsal mark 10 and continues the melody, ending with a measure rest. The tempo marking 'poco rall.' is placed above the fourth staff.

[1, 2, 3]

4

1-4

6

poco rall.

10

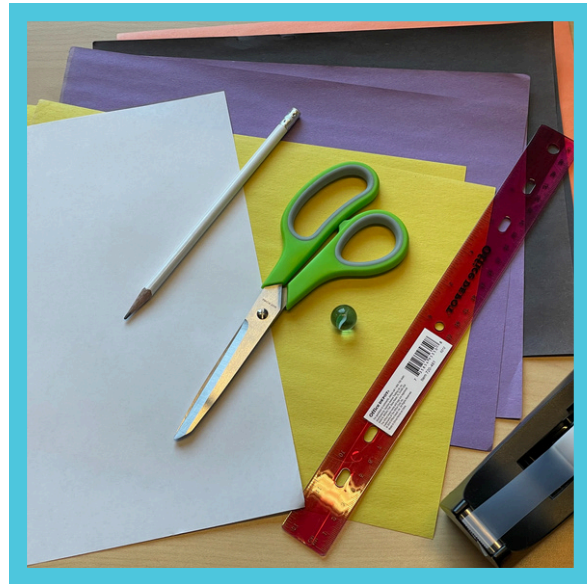
DESIGN YOUR OWN ROLLER COASTER

A SCIENCE ACTIVITY

There would be no Ride the Cyclone without the fictional roller coaster for which the musical is named. In the story, all that is known about the infamous Cyclone roller coaster is that there's a loop-de-loop. In this activity, you will be designing and building the Cyclone roller coaster. For your roller coaster, your roller coaster will need to have a loop-de-loop and be able to get a marble or ball from the starting point all the way to the end, but feel free to add extra twists and turns!

MATERIALS

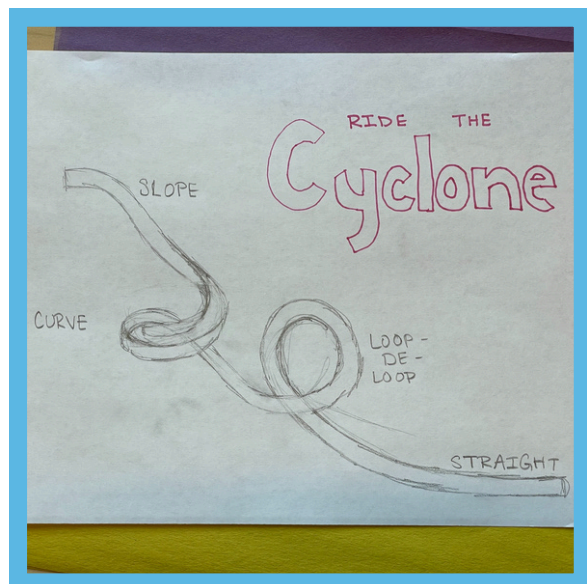
- A cardboard base (optional)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Ruler
- Construction paper
- Blank paper
- Marble or small bouncy ball



DIRECTIONS

1. Design your roller coaster!

Using your blank paper and a pencil, sketch out an idea for how you want your roller coaster to look. You will want to have your roller coaster start from a high point so that your marble has enough momentum to maneuver the loop-de-loop and any twists and turns you add.



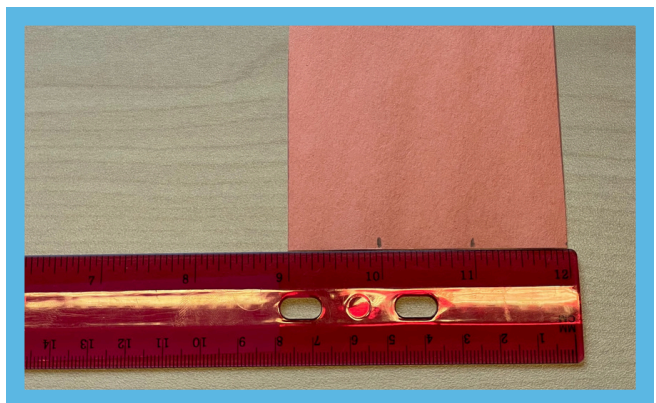
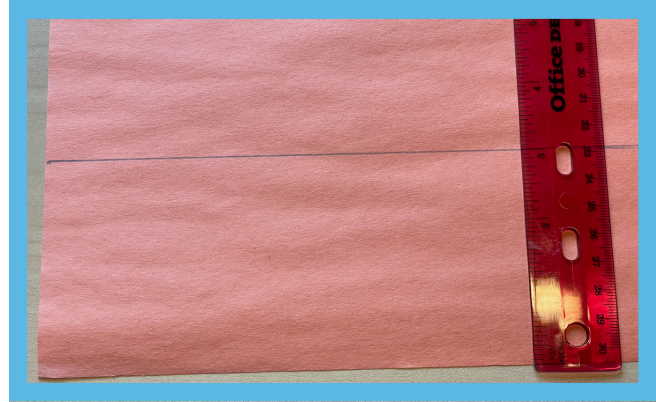
DESIGN YOUR OWN ROLLER COASTER

A SCIENCE ACTIVITY CONTINUED

2. Build the pieces for your roller coaster. Your roller coaster may have straight segment, loops, hills, curves, and support struts. Follow the directions below to learn how to make each piece.

To build a straight segment:

1. On a piece of construction paper, measure out a 3-inch wide strip. Feel free to measure out as many as you'd like. Each strip will become a straight segment.
2. Cut out your strip(s) of paper.
3. On your strip(s) of paper, draw two parallel lines that divide the strip into three 1-inch wide strips.
4. Fold your strip of paper along the two lines you drew on so that it forms two walls on either side.



DESIGN YOUR OWN ROLLER COASTER

A SCIENCE ACTIVITY CONTINUED

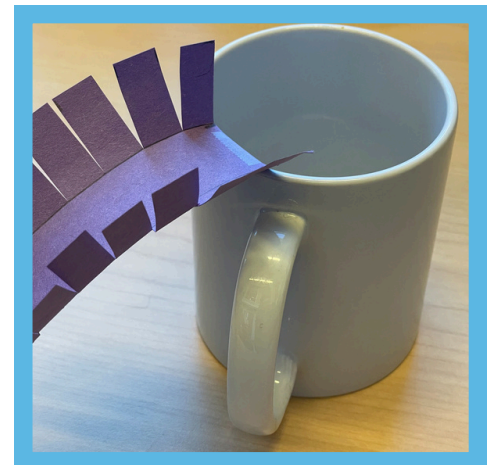
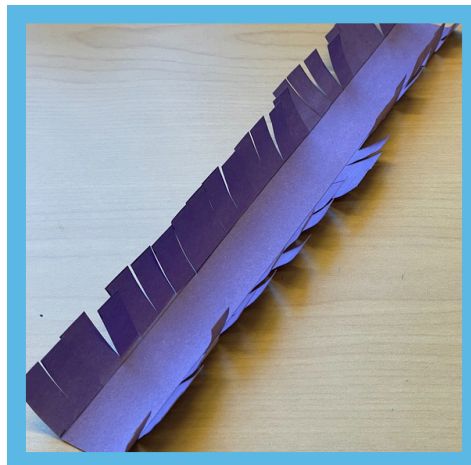
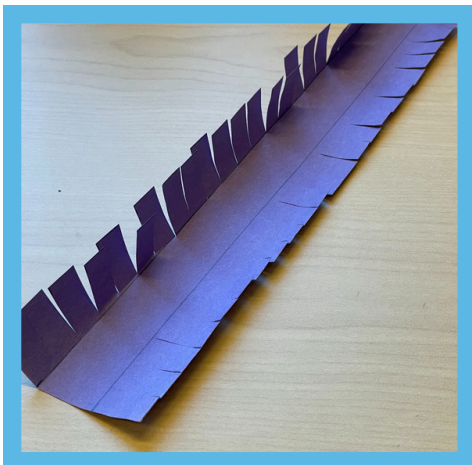
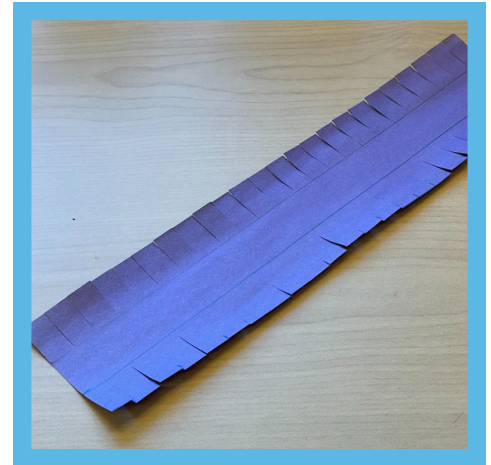
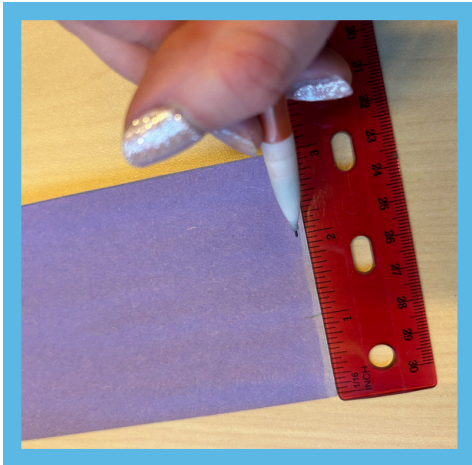
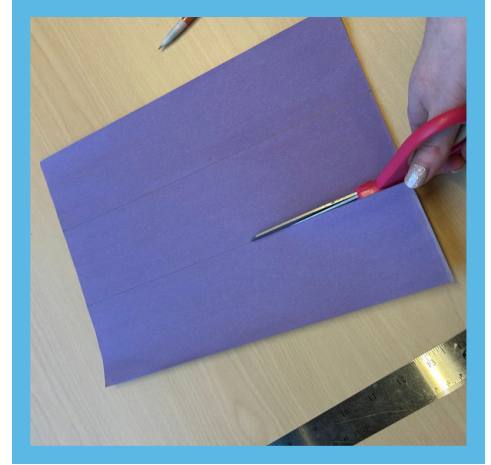
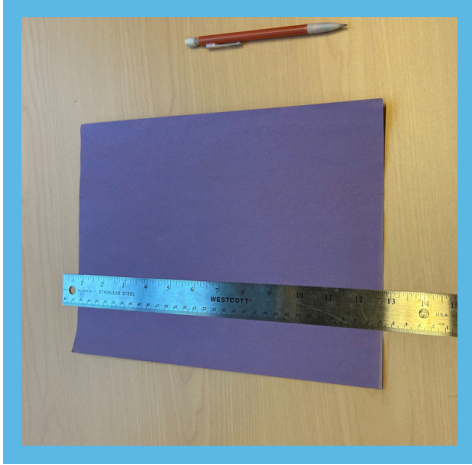
To build a loop or hill segment:

1. On a piece of construction paper, measure out a 3-inch wide strip. Feel free to measure out as many as you'd like to either make multiple hills and loops or to make one large hill or loop.
2. Cut out your strip(s) of paper.
3. On your strip(s) of paper, draw two parallel lines that divide the strip into three 1-inch wide stripes.
4. Next, make marks every $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 1 inch along the long edges of the strip(s) of paper.
5. Cut inward 1 inch on each of these marks to form tabs. Try not to cut past the original parallel lines that you first drew on your strip(s).
6. Fold the tabs up 90 degrees.
7. Bend the track into the shape you want, and tape the tabs together to hold them into place.
8. To help the track keep its shape as you tape the tabs together, feel free to have a friend hold the track in its shape. You can also tape it down to a surface as shown in the example provided!
9. If you are planning on making a large loop-de-loop or hill, overlap the different track pieces by about 1 to 2 inches. Then, tape them together on the top and the bottom.

**SEE STEP BY STEP IMAGES
ON NEXT PAGES**

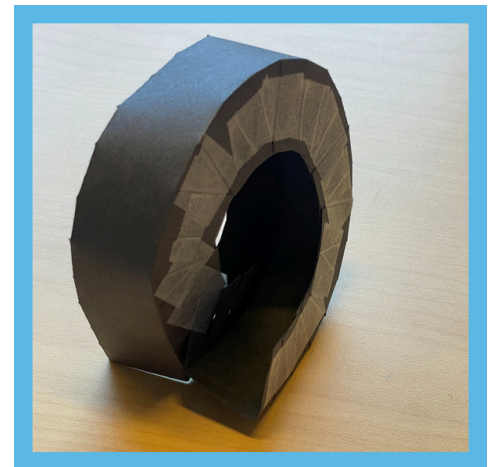
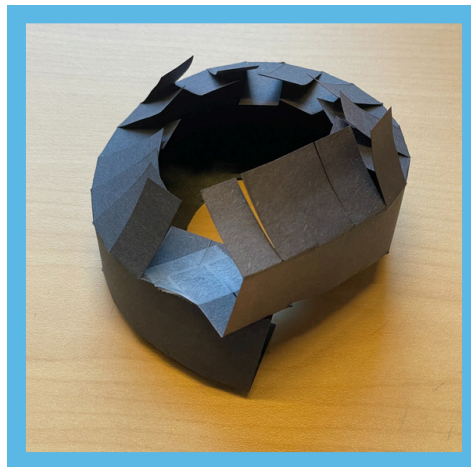
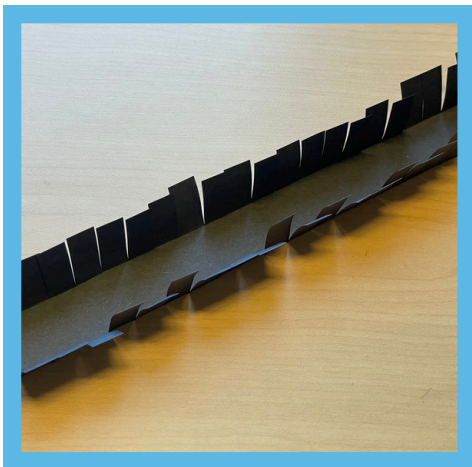
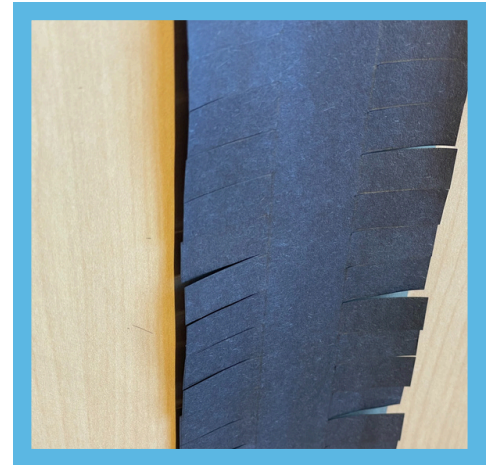
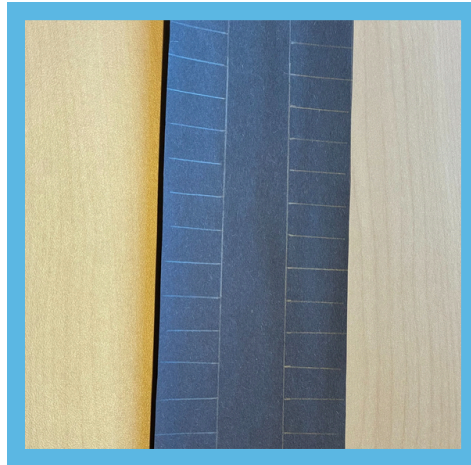
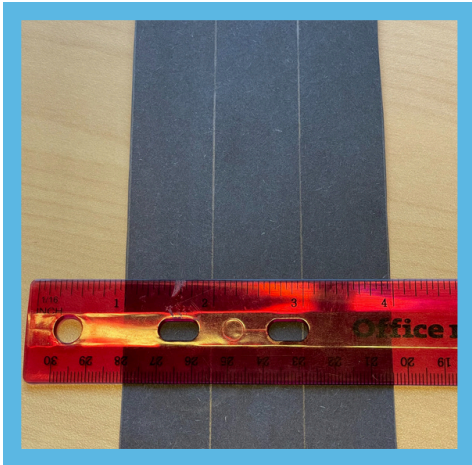
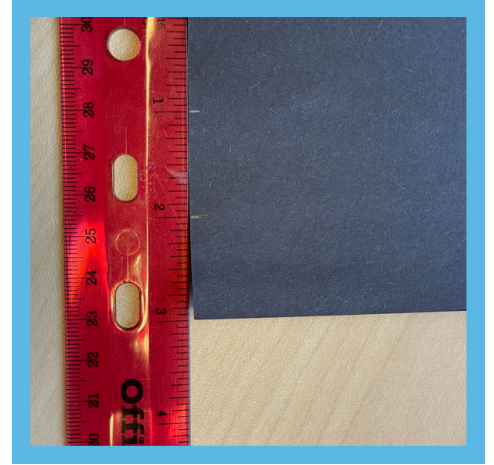
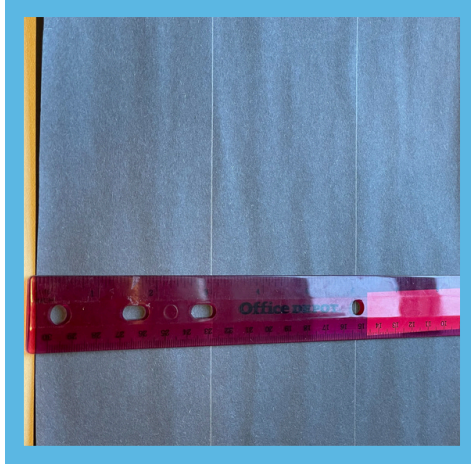
DESIGN YOUR OWN ROLLER COASTER

HILL STEP BY STEP IMAGES



DESIGN YOUR OWN ROLLER COASTER

LOOP STEP BY STEP IMAGES

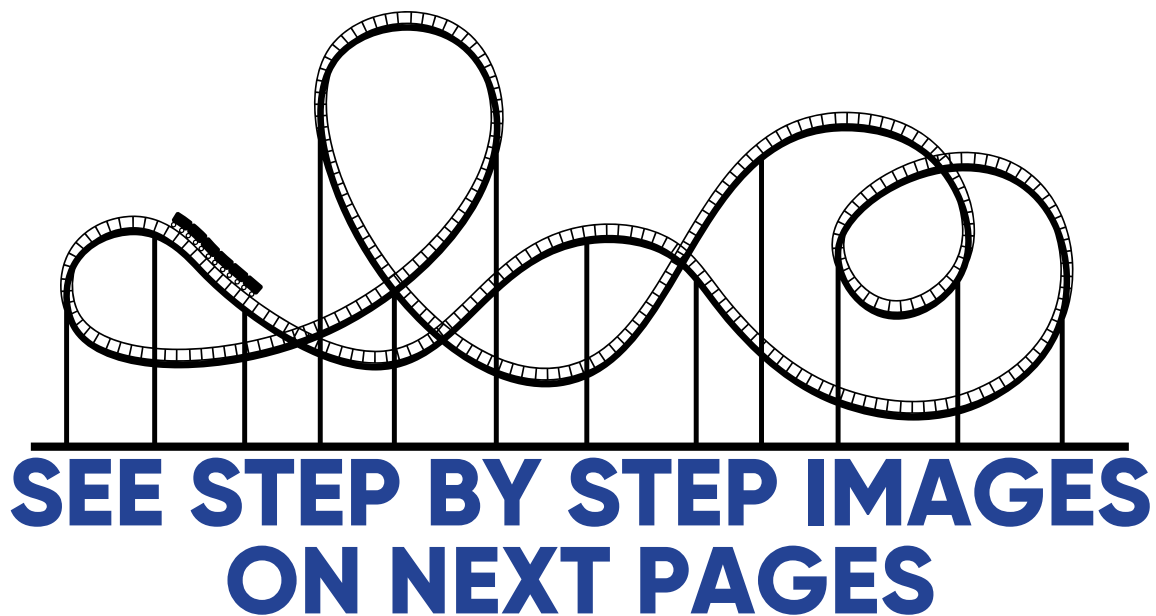


DESIGN YOUR OWN ROLLER COASTER

A SCIENCE ACTIVITY CONTINUED

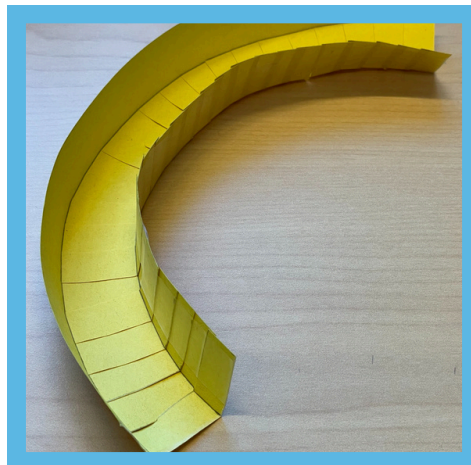
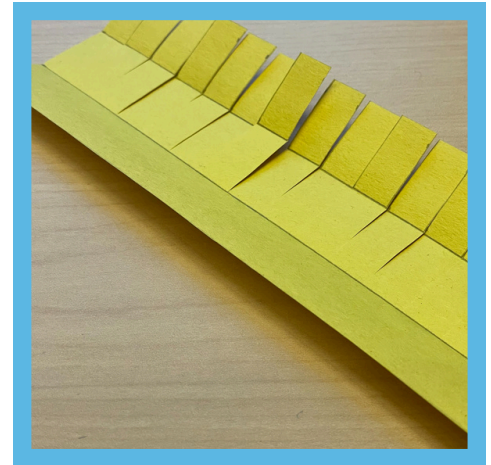
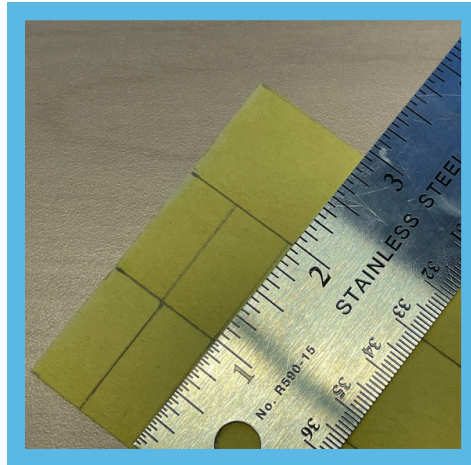
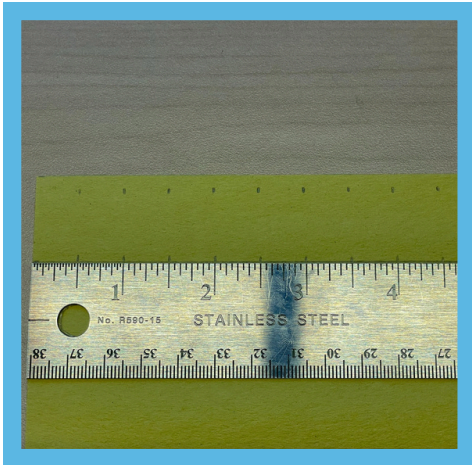
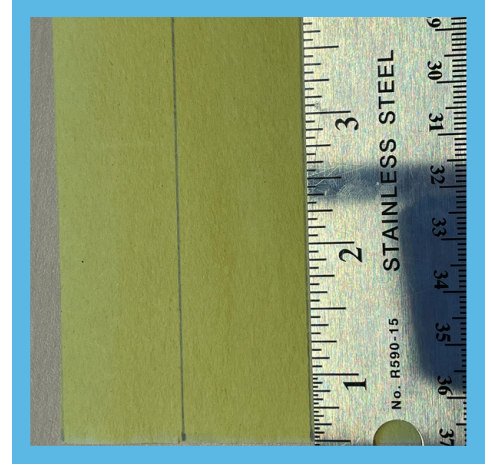
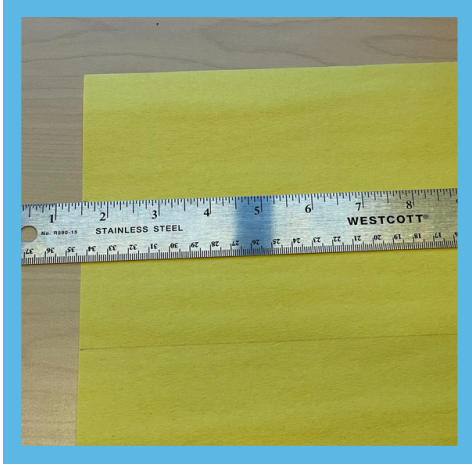
To build a curve segment:

1. On a piece of construction paper, measure out a 3-inch wide strip. Feel free to measure out as many as you'd like to make!
2. Cut out your strip(s) of paper.
3. On your strip(s) of paper, draw two parallel lines that divide the strip into three 1-inch sections.
4. On one long side of your strip of paper, make marks every $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch.
5. Cut inward 2 inches on each of these marks to form tabs. Try to only cut through 2 sections of your strip of paper!
6. Fold the uncut side of your strip(s) up 90 degrees to form a wall.
7. With the bottom portion of the track cut into tabs, you can bend the entire track horizontally by having the tabs overlap each other. This will form a curve! Tape the tabs together to ensure the curve holds its shape.



DESIGN YOUR OWN ROLLER COASTER

CURVE STEP BY STEP IMAGES

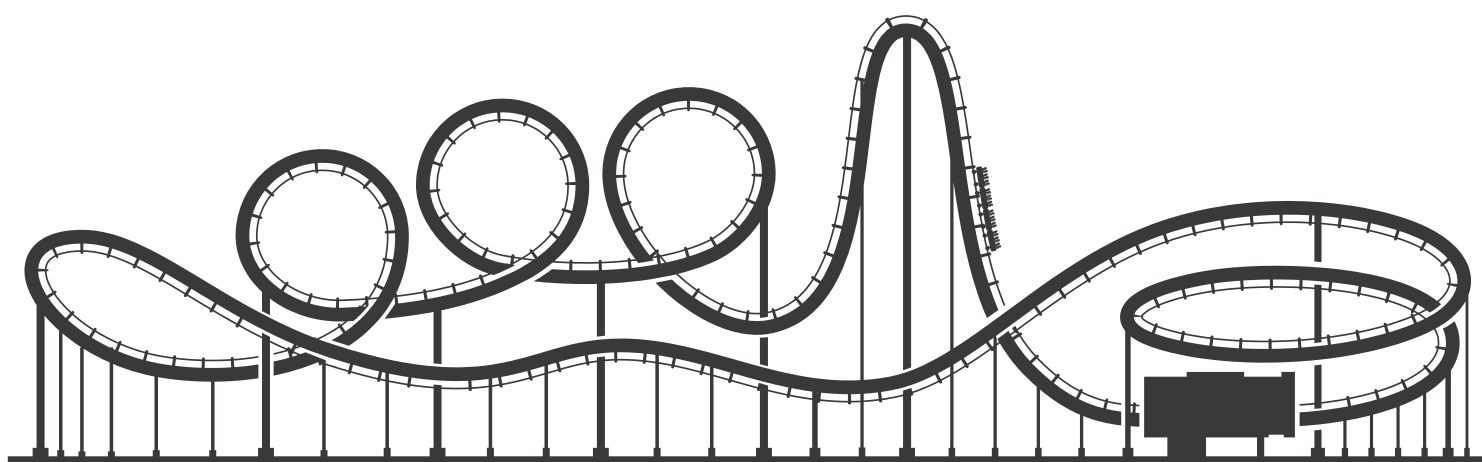


DESIGN YOUR OWN ROLLER COASTER

A SCIENCE ACTIVITY CONTINUED

To build a support strut:

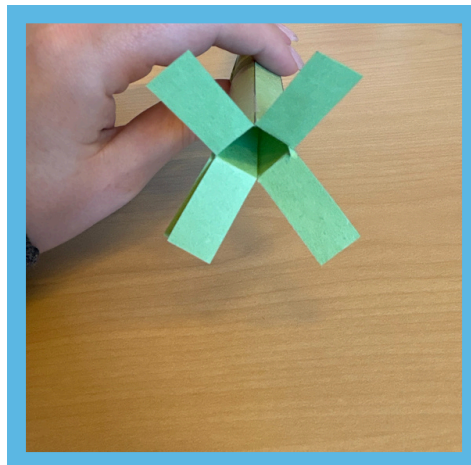
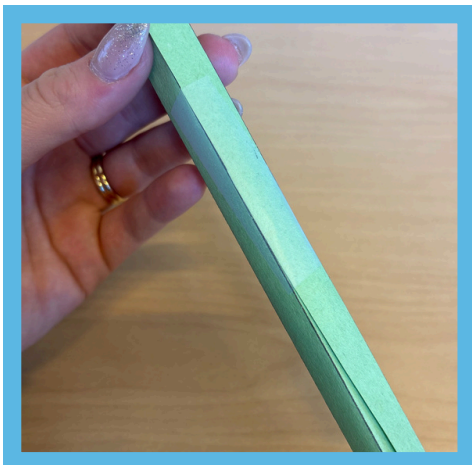
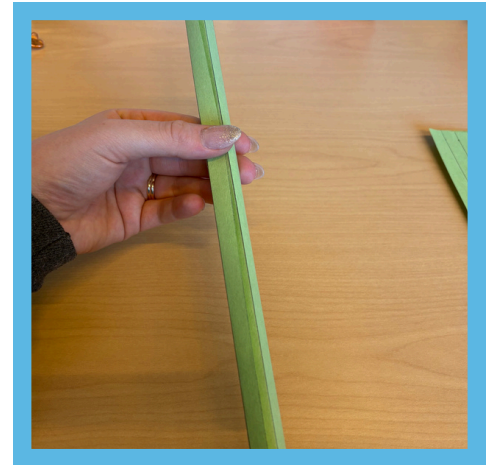
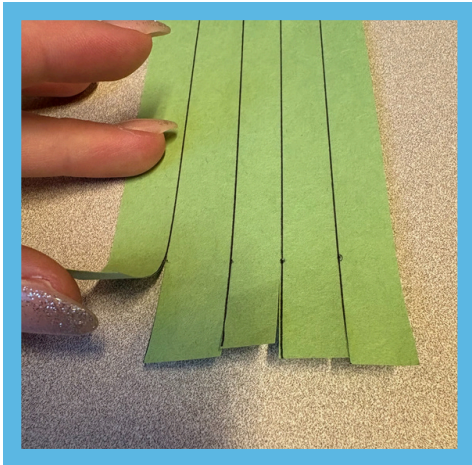
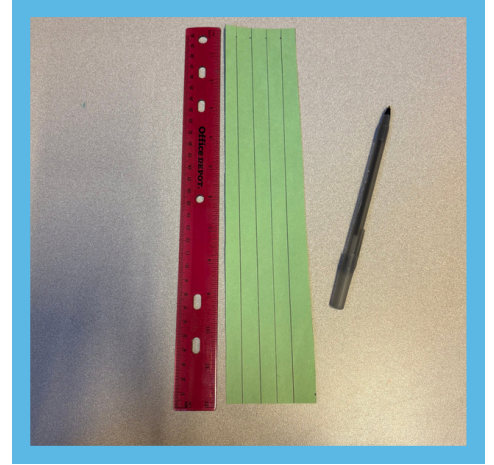
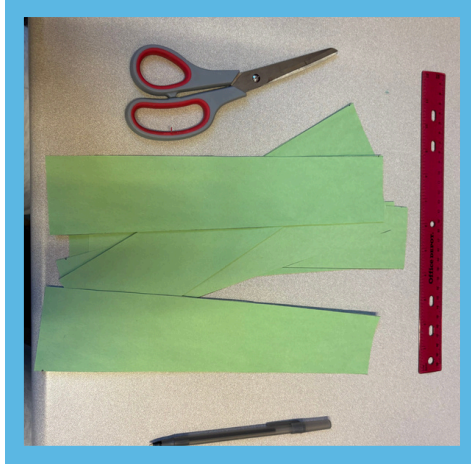
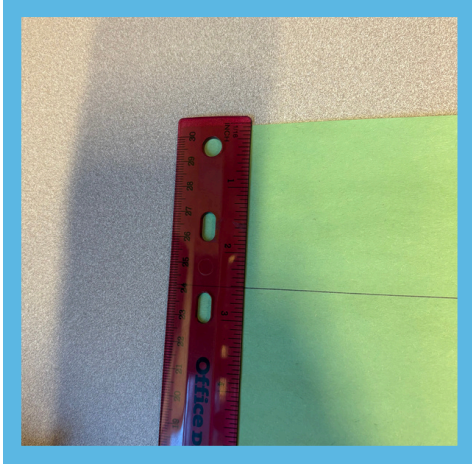
1. On a piece of construction paper, measure out a 2 ½-inch wide strip. Feel free to measure out as many as you'd like to make!
2. Cut out your strip(s) of paper.
3. On your strip(s) of paper, draw out four parallel lines that divide the strip into five ½ inch sections.
4. On one short edge of your strip(s), cut inward 1 inch along these parallel lines.
5. Fold along the parallel lines to form a long, square shape so that two of the sections will overlap. Tape the two overlapping sections together.
6. Fold the tabs that you cut early at the end outward. This will form the base of your support strut so that you can attach it to your cardboard base.



**SEE STEP BY STEP IMAGES
ON NEXT PAGES**

DESIGN YOUR OWN ROLLER COASTER

STRUT STEP BY STEP IMAGES



DESIGN YOUR OWN ROLLER COASTER

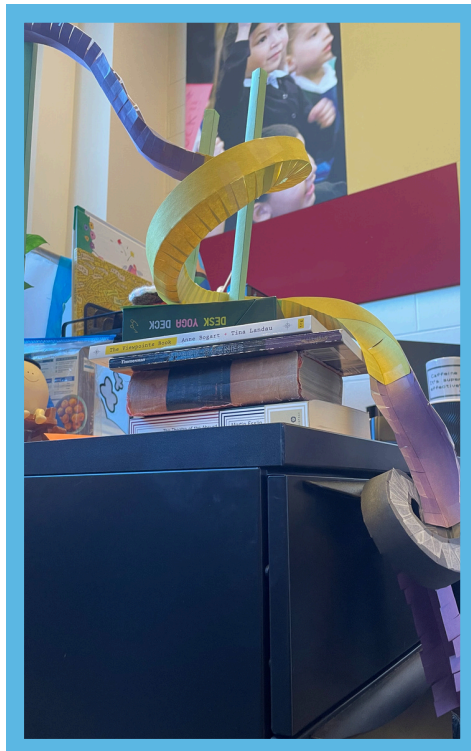
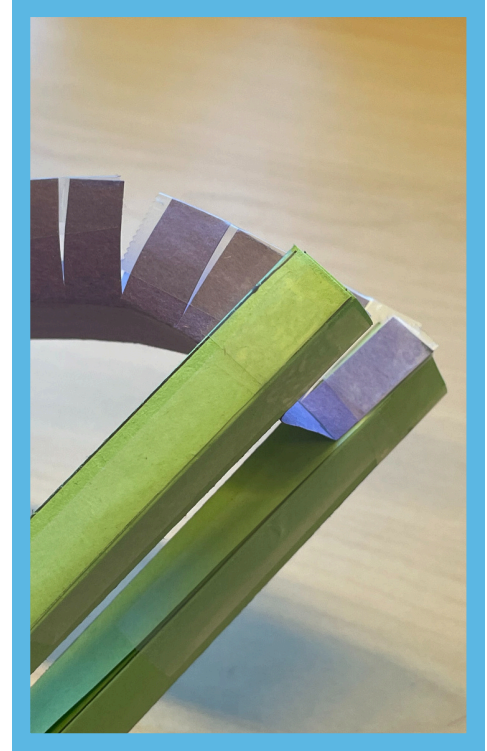
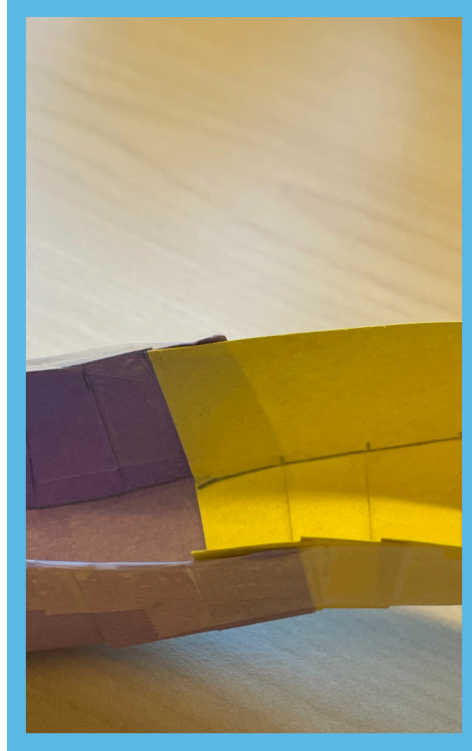
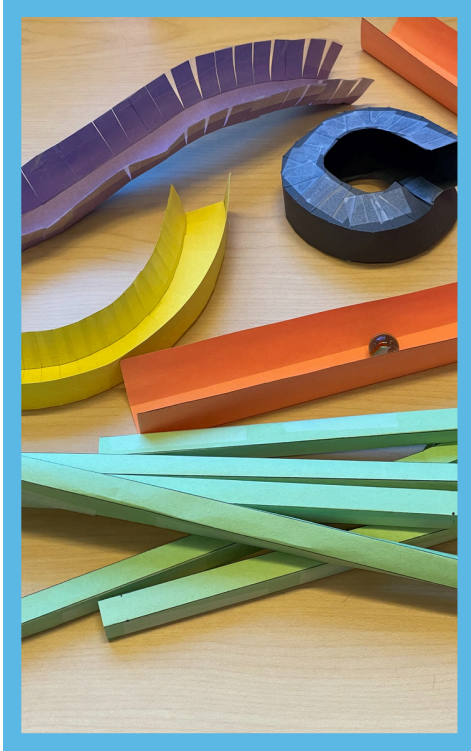
A SCIENCE ACTIVITY CONTINUED

1. Begin to assemble your roller coaster. Using a piece of cardboard as your base, assemble your track by overlapping each track segment's ends by 1 to 2 inches. Then, tape where they overlap on the top and bottom to attach them together. Tape your tracks to any support struts that you made to ensure that anything that is off the base can stay up.
2. Once your track is complete, place your marble at the top of your track and let it go.
3. If your marble is able to make it to the end, congratulations! You successfully built your own Cyclone roller coaster! If your marble got stuck along the way, try to figure out why.
4. If you're struggling to figure out what went wrong with your roller coaster or you don't know how to fix the problem, here are some possible suggestions for what went wrong and how to fix it:
 - a. Your marble got stuck in a curve:
 - i. Try making your hill taller or give it a more extreme slope!
 - b. Your marble fell out of the loop-de-loop without making it all the way around:
 - i. Your loop-de-loop might be too tall. Try making your loop shorter or make the hill before your loop taller or use a more extreme slope!
 - c. Your marble wasn't able to get up a hill:
 - i. The marble didn't have enough momentum to get up the hill. Try making the hill shorter or make the hill before the troublesome hill taller or use a more extreme slope!
 - d. Your marble went flying off the track:
 - i. Your marble has TOO MUCH momentum. Try making the hill before where your marble fell off shorter or use a less extreme slope.
5. Once your roller coaster is complete, feel free to show it off to your classmates, friends, family, or take a picture or video and share it with us! Feel free to email it to education@firststage.org! Or share it with us on Facebook or Instagram (@firststage)!

SEE STEP BY STEP IMAGES ON NEXT PAGES

DESIGN YOUR OWN ROLLER COASTER

CONSTRUCTION STEP BY STEP IMAGES



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A CREATIVE WRITING ACTIVITY

Ride the Cyclone is the second play in a trilogy called The Uranium Teen Scream Trilogy. The first play is called Legoland, but the third play has not been published yet. In this activity you'll write your own version of this mysterious third play in the trilogy. Complete the worksheet to plan out your story, and then use the lines provided on the next page to write your story. Add more pages as needed!

WHICH CHARACTER(S) FROM RIDE THE CYCLONE WILL YOU USE IN YOUR STORY?
(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

JANE DOE CONSTANCE BLACKWOOD MISCHA BACHINSKI

NOEL GRUBER OCEAN ROSENBERG RICKY POTTS

KARNAK VIRGIL

SETTING: _____

THEME(S): _____

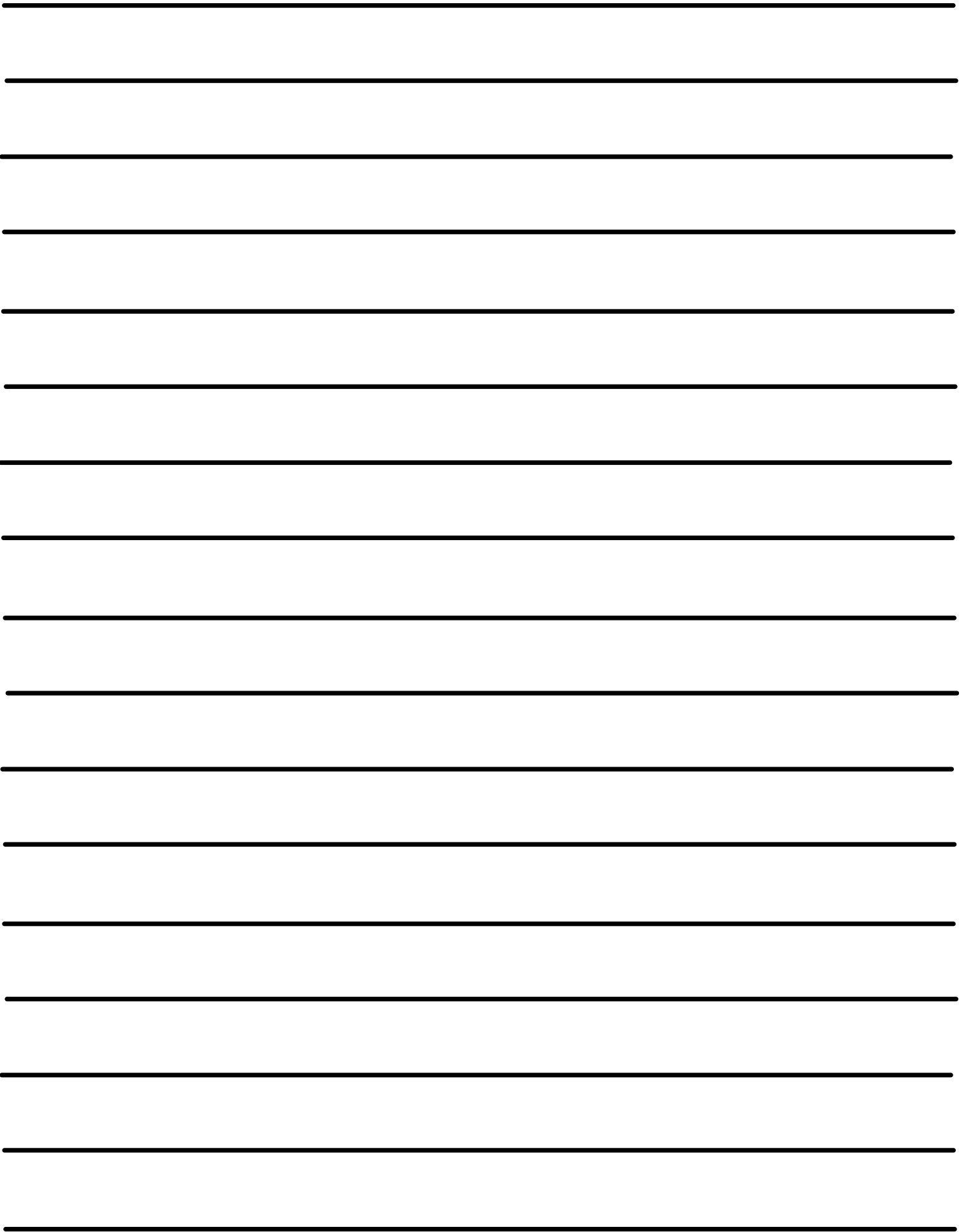
MORAL OR MESSAGE: _____

CONFLICT OR PROBLEM: _____

BEGINNING: _____

MIDDLE: _____

END: _____



CHARACTER MOOD BOARD

A LITERACY AND ART ACTIVITY

Ride the Cyclone features 6 very distinct characters who tell their life stories throughout the course of the musical. In this activity you'll create a mood board for your favorite character from Ride the Cyclone!

WHAT IS A MOOD BOARD?

A collection of images put together to evoke a certain mood or tone.

DIRECTIONS

1. Choose the character from Ride the Cyclone you'll be designing a mood board for.
2. Choose your medium. You can make a collage, use a digital tool like Canva, draw, paint, or whatever you want!
3. Write a list of words that make you think of your chosen character. These can be nouns, adjectives, verbs, etc.
4. Find images that represent the words you wrote. You can find these in magazines, online, or you can even take photos with your friends!
5. Get creating! Make your mood board! Share with First Stage at education@firststage.org to show off your work!



POSTSHOW QUESTIONS

1. Which character from Ride the Cyclone do you relate to or identify with most? Why?

2. The characters in Ride the Cyclone each tell their life story through song. If you had to tell your life story so far, what medium would you use to tell it? Who would you want to share your life story with?

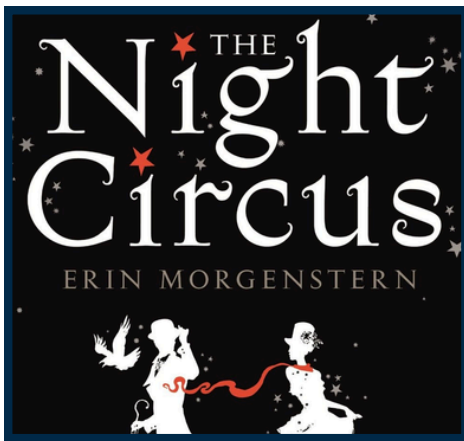
3. Each character in Ride the Cyclone states their case as to why they should be the one that Karnak returns to life. If you were Karnak, which character would you choose to bring back to life? Why? What makes a life worth living? Who gets to decide what makes life worth living?

WHO SAID IT?

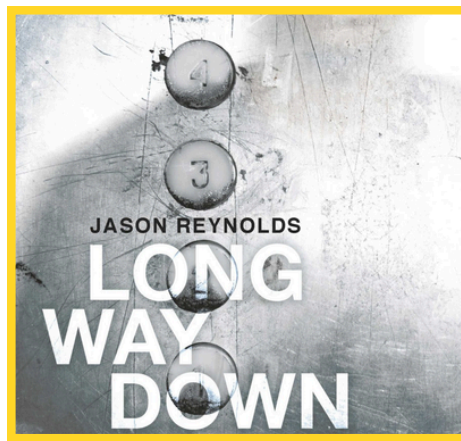
1. "The first rule: one that has baffled theater goes since the days of Aeschylus...the armrest to your left is yours; the one to your right is your neighbor's. If you believe that both armrests are yours exclusively... you are part of the problem."
2. "That's way better than a Hello Kitty cupcake."
3. "Second, so inspiring. That a man encased in a literal box, has learned to think outside of it."
4. "I had to work somewhere, we had no money. I was saving up to move to France."
5. "You play squeeze keys mad wicked awesome."

RECOMMENDED READING BOOKS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Please note that these books contain similar themes to Ride the Cyclone such mature content, language and themes including discussion of untimely death and mature situations including references to sex, drugs, and violence.



THE NIGHT CIRCUS
by Erin Morgenstern



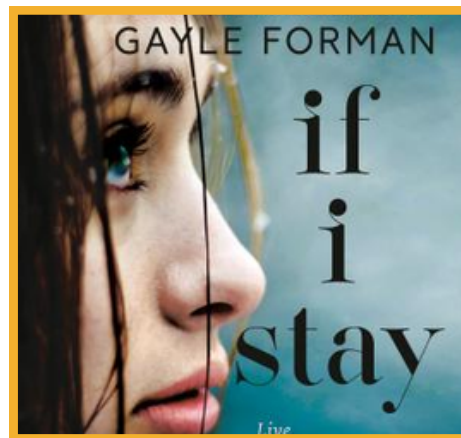
LONG WAY DOWN
by Jason Reynolds



WE WERE LIARS
by E. Lockhart



**THEY BOTH DIE
AT THE END**
by Adam Silvera



IF I STAY
by Gayle Forman



THE COUNSELORS
by Jessica Goodman