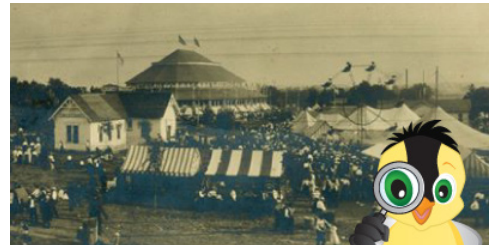


Goldie at Home: Iowa State Fair

Activity Overview: Iowa has a rich history of fair going, from winning blue ribbons, devouring deep-fried food and taking a spin on an exhilarating ride. Fairgrounds around the state may be quiet this summer, but that doesn't mean you can't celebrate a favorite summer pastime - with all of its attractions and yummy treats - within your own home. This Goldie at Home activity focuses on the carousel, a classic attraction located at many fair midways.

Connection to Iowa History

Did you know that July 25 is National Carousel Day? That day commemorates when Wilhelm Schneider, of Davenport, Iowa, was granted the first carousel patent in 1871. Although not many records exist about Schneider's personal life, it is known that he was a scientist and promoter. Carousels have existed in many forms for centuries, and Schneider used his scientific background to develop and create a new mechanical carousel which somewhat resembles the modern ride we know today. No images still exist of Schneider's first carousel, but it was described as a two-story structure and riders had to climb staircases to get "on a horse." The ride opened in 1873 for only one season and attracted large crowds.



Instructions

- 1 Place the paper towel roll or toilet paper tube in the middle of one of the paper plates. Trace around the tube to create a circle in the center. This paper plate will be the base of your carousel and the other paper plate will be the roof. If using a paper towel roll, cut it in half so it is approximately three inches in length.
- 2 Either print the attached carousel horse outlines, or if you would rather create your own animals, draw their outlines on construction paper. Be sure to include poles for the animals.
- 3 Color and decorate both sides of the horse outlines using colored pencils, markers or crayons. After you color the animals, cut out the outlines and set aside.
- 4 Color and decorate the paper plates and paper roll. The paper plate that will be the base only needs decorations on one side, the side on which you drew the circle. The other paper plate, the roof of your carousel, should be decorated on both sides.
- 5 On your carousel base paper plate, place glue around the circle drawn earlier. Place and hold your tube in the glue until dried.
- 6 Put glue on the top of your tube and place your carousel roof paper plate on top of the tube. Hold the carousel together until the glue has dried.

Materials

- Two paper plates
- Paper towel roll cut in half or toilet paper tube
- Plain printer paper or construction paper
- Carousel horse templates
- Colored pencils, markers or crayons
- Glue stick or glue

Instructions continued on next page

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Instructions continued

- 7 To attach the carousel horse cutouts, place a small amount of glue on the “tab” on the end of each pole, bend the tab so that the glue can attach to the base and roof of your carousel. Hold until the glue dries. Repeat this process around the plate for however many animals you want to add.
- 8 **Questions to Spark Learning**
 - What are your favorite things to do while attending a fair? Why?
 - Why do you think fairs were originally held years ago, and why are they still important?
 - The Iowa State Fair is well known for food on a stick. If you had to choose a type of food that best represents Iowa to put on a stick, what would you choose and why?
- 9 **Additional Resources**

Explore these resources below to learn more about the history and legacy of the Iowa State Fair.

 - [“First Modern Merry-go-Round Built by Davenport, Iowa Inventor Back in 1871” Newspaper Article from *The Daily Reporter*](#)
 - [Iowa State Fair Trivia](#)
 - [Historical Highlights of the Iowa State Fair](#)
 - [*Smithsonian Magazine*: “Take a Spin on the Most Beautiful, Hand-Crafted Carousels in the Nation”](#)

Carousel Horses

TEMPLATE

