

Determining the Facts: Grade 4 Vocabulary List

Americanism	A word, phrase, or custom that originated in the United States, or is regarded as characteristic of the United States.
Amusement	Entertainment; something to do for fun.
Assimilation	Integration into a group; the process by which one group takes on the cultural traits of a larger group.
Aztecs	The people who dominated Mexico in the early sixteenth century.

Bunting	Outdoor decorations usually made from strings of cloth or paper for hanging.
Byzantine Era	Refers to the period of rule in the Eastern Roman Empire beginning in 330 A.D.
Chariots	Ancient two-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle used in races, warfare, or processions. On a carousel a chariot is any bench or seat for riders.
Coney Island	Large amusement park in New York City, NY. This park was the largest and best known amusement park in the United States in the late 1800s.

"Coney Island Style"	Name given to the style of carousel carving led by Charles Loof; known for elegant and natural-looking animals.
"Country Fair Style"	Name given to the style of carousel building led by Allan Herschell. Horses and other figures were somewhat simple in order to allow these carousels to be disassembled and moved to fairs around the country.
Crescent Park Carousel	Located at Crescent Park in Riverside, Rhode Island; created by Charles Loof. It is known for being especially fancy and features mirrors, glass jewels, colored windows, and an organ.
Gustav Dentzel	Leader of the Philadelphia style of carousel building; became known as the "father of American carousel carving."

Elaborate	Contains a great deal of fancy detail and decoration.
Empire State Carousel	A carousel designed by master carver Gerry Holzman to showcase the history, geography, and wildlife of the state of New York.
Engineer	A person skilled in design and construction.
Evolution	The process of growth; development.

Exotic	Strikingly different or unusual; often very colorful and exciting; suggesting distant countries and unfamiliar cultures.
Flourish	To be successful.
Folk art	Style of art; paintings and decorative objects made by artists without formal academic training.
Forerunner	Anything that comes before something similar in time.

Great Depression	Period in United States history that began with the stock market crash of 1929. Millions of Americans lost their jobs and the national economy remained very poor throughout the 1930s.
"Golden Age of Carousels"	Refers to the period between 1870 and 1930 when carousels with hand-carved wooden animals were produced in large numbers.
Allan Herschell	Leader of the Country Fair style of carousel building. Herschell immigrated to the United States from Scotland and opened his first carousel in 1883.
Gerry Holzman	Developed the idea for the Empire State Carousel and supervised its construction.

Horsemanship	The skill of riding horses.
Immigration	The act of people entering into a new country to settle permanently.
Indigenous	Belonging to a place; originating in and typical of a region or country.
Intricate	Complicated

King Louis XIV	The fourteenth king of France. He ruled from 1643 until 1715. He was known for his extravegant lifestyle.
Charles Loof	Leader of the "Coney Island style" of carousel building. Immigrated to the United States from Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, in 1870 and opened his first carousel in 1876.
Machinist	A person who uses or makes machines.
Mass produced	To make a product in large amounts, exactly the same.

Mechanism	Moving parts that perform a job.
Menagerie	A collection of wild animals kept in captivity for the curiosity and entertainment of the public, sometimes as part of a traveling show such as a circus. In carousels, the word menagerie refers to the collection of different animals.
Mimic	To resemble something in a way that seems like a deliberate copy.
Patent	A government protection to keep an inventor's idea from being stolen.

"Philadelphia Style"	Name given to the style of carousel building led by Gustav Dentzel. Blended beautiful movements, sound, and color with very natural-looking animals.
Propel	To move forward.
Realism	In artistic and literary works, refers to lifelike representations of people and the world, without making them seem ideal.
Revolutionize	To make a major change.

Frederick Savage	An engineer who, in the 1860s, created the mechanism that allows carousel animals to move up and down.
Spear	To hit or pierce with a spear.
"Total Carousel Experience"	Charles Loof's idea of blending bright lights, brilliant colors, and fanciful figures into carousels for riders to enjoy.
Wheelwright	A person who makes or fixes wheels.