



GEORGE WASHINGTON GALE FERRIS JNR



EARLY LIFE

George Washington Gale Ferris Jnr. was born on 14 February 1859 in Galesburg, Illinois, United States. His family later moved to Nevada, where he grew up. From a young age, he was curious about how things worked and enjoyed studying engineering.

EDUCATION AND CAREER

George studied civil engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York. After graduating, he worked in several jobs related to building railroads and bridges. His knowledge of engineering and his creative ideas helped him become an expert in designing strong and large structures made of steel.

THE FERRIS WHEEL

In 1893, the World's Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago, a large fair to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas. The organisers wanted a structure that would amaze visitors, just like the Eiffel Tower had done at a fair in Paris a few years earlier.

George had an idea for a giant wheel that people could ride on, high above the ground. This idea had never been built before, and many people thought it would not work. However, George believed in his invention and worked hard to make it happen.

BUILDING A GIANT WHEEL

The construction of the Ferris Wheel was a big challenge. The wheel was made of steel and stood 80 metres tall. It could carry over 2,000 people at a time in its 36 passenger cars. When the Ferris Wheel was completed, it became the star attraction of the fair. People were amazed at how it worked and loved the view from the top.

LEGACY

George's invention became very popular, and Ferris wheels are now found in amusement parks all over the world. Sadly, George passed away on 22 November 1896, only three years after building his famous wheel.



However, his name lives on, and he is remembered as the man who created one of the most exciting rides in history.

FUN FACT

The original Ferris Wheel was so big that it weighed over 1,000 tonnes! It was powered by a steam engine and took 20 minutes to make a full turn.

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[George Washington Gale Ferris Jr. facts for kids](#)

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. When and where was George Washington Gale Ferris Jnr. born?
2. What did George study at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute?
3. Why was the Ferris Wheel built for the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893?
4. How tall was the original Ferris Wheel, and how many people could it carry?
5. What is George Washington Gale Ferris Jnr. remembered for today?