

A Royal Ride: Catherine The Great's Great Invention

By: Kristen Fulton

Illustrated: Lucy Fleming

Synopsis: Empress Catherine the Great, Queen of Russia loved her country, especially the snowy winters. Giant ice slides meant daring drops and thrilling rides for all! But every spring, warm weather melted the snow and the slides. What could Catherine the Great do to ensure fun all year round? With some ingenuity and some royal thinking, Catherine the Great would create her greatest invention.

Suggested Reading Date: Anytime

Activity Descriptions:

- For a STEM activity, build a marble run and/or a roller coaster using recycled materials from your building or from student's homes.
- Pair with *I Got a Chicken for My Birthday* to relate building roller coasters.
- Discussion Russian culture and history as it relates to the story.

Related Websites:

- Kristen Fulton's website <http://www.kristenfulton.org/>.
- Lucy Flemming's website: <https://www.lucyflemingillustrations.com/>
- MakerSpace Challenge – Design a roller coaster <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaKtnAsqIt4> You will need the following items for each group of students (if they work in teams) – duct tape, plastic straws, paper, cardboard, a marble, and popsicle sticks.
- Early "Russian Mountains" Ice Slides <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/russian-roller-coasters>

Text to Text Connections:

Roller Coaster by Kevin O'Malley

Roller Coaster by Marla Frazee.

Created By: Monica Sands