

1. 阅读理解

Free Theme Parks

No matter what theme park or amusement park you visit, you're going to have to open your wallet to ride a coaster. For families on a budget, free-admission parks can be great bargains.

Knoebels

Knoebels is one of the few remaining free-admission parks, and one of the largest in the US. Rides are separately priced. Discounted ticket books are available. Knoebels also offers pay-one-price options. With its generous collection of classic spinning rides and dizzying colored lights, Knoebels transports guests to a former time. It also takes special pride in its two popular wooden coasters, Twister and Phoenix. The park offers a campground.

Coney Island

The amusement area includes a number of operators. Admission to the seaside parks and famed boardwalk (木板路) is still free, as is entrance to the public beach. It also offers free parking. A Nathan's Famous hot dog, however, will cost you.

Coney Island was the most popular in the early 18th century. Along the boardwalk there is a clear sense of Americana (美国文物).

Family Kingdom

The free-admission park offers individual ride tickets as well as unlimited ride passes. The nearby Family Kingdom Water Park, however, requires a separate admission. Once coastal vacation spots, traditional seaside amusement parks are now an endangered piece of Americana. Family Kingdom is among a few survivors, which is famous for the Swamp Fox wooden coaster.

Waldameer Park

As a classic amusement park that dates back to 1896, Waldameer is one of the few remaining trolley (有轨电车) parks in the US. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, electric trolley companies often built amusement parks at the end of their lines to get additional money. Waldameer is a free-admission, pay-per-ride park, which is rare these days.

【1】What can people do in Knoebels?

- A. Ride coasters free of charge. B. Go there for vacation camping.
C. Enjoy Nathan's Famous hot dogs. D. Experience the largest coasters in the US.

【2】What can we know about Family Kingdom?

- A. It is a water park. B. It requires an admission.
C. It is known for a wooden coaster. D. It is only open to people with children.

【3】How is Waldameer Park different from the other three parks?

- A. It is in the US. B. It is a trolley park.
C. It has the longest history. D. It is a free-admission park.

2. 阅读理解

Josh Morrison, 17, dreamed of raising \$ 100,000 to build a home for a low-income family. After years of hard work, his dream has come true. The house is now in the early stages of building.

Six years ago, Josh and his dad went into a Habitat for Humanity Restore, a home improvement store and donation center run by the nonprofit organization. They were there to buy a sink. Josh then 11 also noticed a collection of pennies. "I instantly felt the urge to help out with that," he said. Josh set a fundraising deadline of four years. Many people doubted whether he could reach his goal of \$ 100,000, but it didn't shake his faith. He raised money at his school and other nearby schools. He collected money from neighbours, got publicity from local newspapers, and placed cans in stores so that people could donate extra change.

Josh's fundraising efforts began to produce results. Still, there were challenges. Four months before his deadline, he was \$30,000 short. He decided to hold Family Fun Fair and Spaghetti Dinner in Uxbridge, which is in the province of Ontario. The event raised \$19,000.

"I didn't care how long it took me," Josh said. "I would raise \$100,000." With three weeks left, a company called Josh's house, offering to donate \$18,000. Eventually,

Josh reached a total of \$134,000 before the deadline. "The momentum just kept going, and we decided to do more," he said. "Josh's Penny House" is being built by Habitat for Humanity in the city of Oshawa, along with 24 new townhouses. Josh has helped with some of the construction, as have other volunteers. He will choose the family that moves into the unit.

Next year, the 17-year-old will head to college in British Columbia, Canada's westernmost province. As a 11-year-old kid when starting fundraising, Josh was able to send a powerful message across the world. No matter how old you are, if you have a dream and are willing to do anything to achieve it, it can come true.

【1】Which word can best describe Josh Morrison in Paragraph 2?

- A. Cautious. B. Straightforward.
C. Open-minded. D. Determined.

【2】Why was the Family Fun Fair and Spaghetti Dinner event held in Uxbridge?

- A. To attain his goal. B. To call for more attention.
C. To win approval from the locals. D. To find sponsors for a family.

【3】What does the underlined sentence in Para. 4 mean?

- A. He received continuous donations. B. His project became more popular.
C. He got more support from his family. D. The result was beyond expectations.

【4】What can be the best title for the text?

- A. Kindness from a Company B. The Penny House Dream
C. An Astonishing Fundraiser D. A Boy with a Warm Heart

3. 阅读理解

Heating and cooling equipment are the biggest users of energy in American homes. And homes are responsible for about one fourth of the nation's total energy use. But there are surprisingly simple ways to deeply cut energy use, its effect on the environment and its cost. David Peabody and his team at Peabody Architects design passive homes. He says the design of a passive house aims to reduce energy demand to its lowest possible level. Passive houses use no solar, geothermal or wind energy equipment. But they are extremely energy efficient.

Mr Peabody says passive houses cut heating and cooling costs by about 90 percent. But what sets his design apart from other "green homes" is that it looks like any other home. Peabody Architects says it is building the first passive home in the Washington, D.C. area. But it will not be the last. In Arlington, Virginia, Roger Lin and his brother Eric are also building one. Roger Lin of Southern Exposure Homes explains that windows are sealed against leaks and have three layers of glass. The windows are airtight. On a cold winter day, the temperature inside the unfinished home is a comfortable 12 degrees, or 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

David Peabody says you can find passive homes all over the world. DAVID PEABODY: