



How well can you explain the Medieval Royal Rollercoaster?

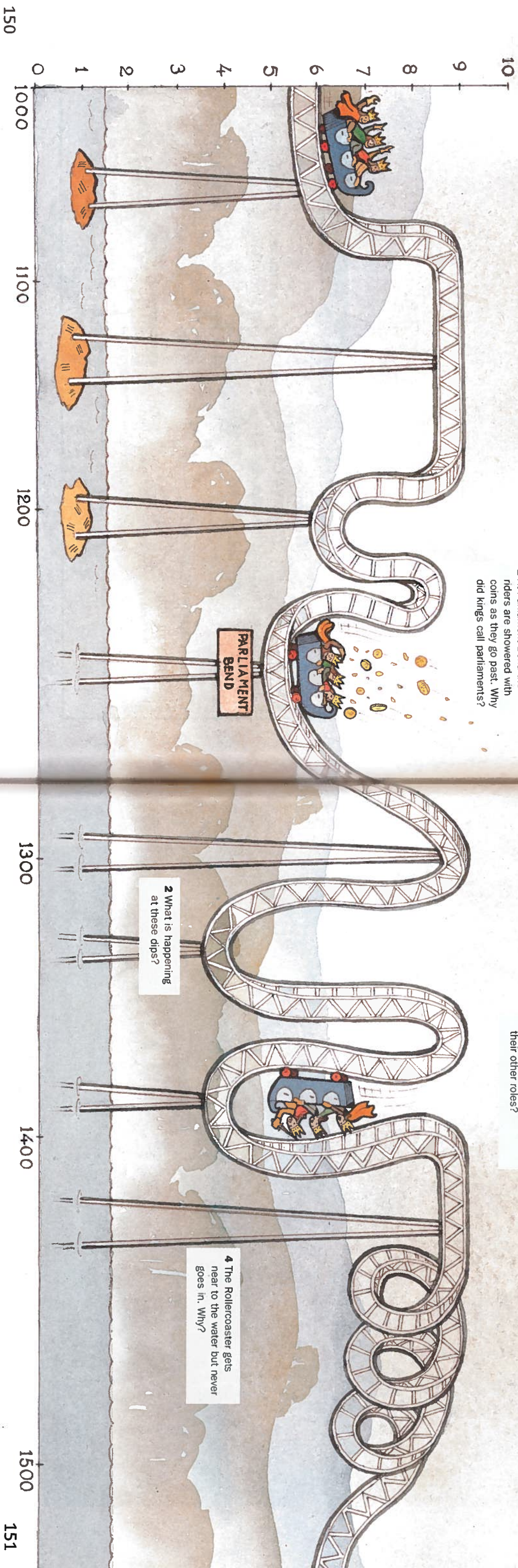
In the Middle Ages the monarch decided whether to go to war and what the laws said. Today our king or queen is a lot less powerful. Over the next 20 pages you are going to examine when, how and why this changed.

THE MEDIEVAL ROYAL ROLLERCOASTER

ACTIVITY

This Royal Rollercoaster tells the story up to 1500. The higher the climb the more powerful the king is. The bumpier the ride the more troubled his reign is.

Using what you can remember from last year and the Information Box opposite, explain the numbered features of the Medieval Royal Rollercoaster.



1 At Parliament Bend the riders are showered with coins as they go past. Why did kings call parliaments?

2 What is happening at these dips?

4 The Rollercoaster gets near to the water but never goes in. Why?

3 One king is waving an object to symbolise his main task in the Middle Ages. What does it mean? What else could the other kings carry to symbolise their other roles?

i In 1215 King John agreed to rules set out in Magna Carta.

Kings began calling parliaments in the 1240s to get money for wars. Edward I used them a lot from the 1280s when he was fighting in Wales and Scotland.

In 1327 and 1399 Edward II and Richard II were deposed and replaced by new kings.

The Wars of the Roses (1455–1487) led to several changes of king in a short time.

THE BIG STORY

Looking back

By the end of the Middle Ages, royal power was still high despite all the ups and downs.

Looking forward

So you've had a reminder of the Middle Ages. Between 1500 and 1900 kings and queens went on a rollercoaster ride of highs and lows, of glories and disasters. Your main task will be to design the Royal Rollercoaster Ride to tell the story of royal power from 1500 to 1900.

Royal Power