



The introduction of the steam engine created an industrial boom throughout Western Europe. The wealth of new technology and jobs brought thousands of people into big cities, with large factory districts developed in and amongst these sprawling new metropolises. While the flood of new workers lived in cramped slums, a rich upper class grew wealthy creating railroad and industrial empires.

With their wealth came a new desire for leisure; the early entrepreneurs of inner-city entertainment created parks, fair, restaurants and promenades to appease the appetite of the city. Some of these leisure tycoons developed a taste for white knuckle thrills, and inspired by the sprawling railroads of the city, created experimental high-speed contraptions.

The leisure areas, factory districts and urban housing all grew organically on top of each other in the developing cities. However, the heart of every city was the great architectural wonder where the iron delta of railroad tracks converged: *Grand Central*.

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