

Zoom! The Rise of Hot Wheels

Grade 3

Question: What important events helped Hot Wheels become popular?

OBJECTIVE • 45 MINUTES

Students read Zoom! The Rise of Hot Wheels, put the important events in Hot Wheels history in order, and explain in a RACES paragraph how those events made the toy popular.

I can tell important events in order and explain how they caused something to happen, using evidence from the text.

Standards

- **RI.3.1** — Students quote details about 1968, the stunt sets and the real-car designs to answer the question.
- **RI.3.3** — Students describe the sequence of events in Hot Wheels history using time words (first, then, later, today) and tell how each step led to popularity.
- **W.3.2** — Students write an informative RACES paragraph explaining the events that made Hot Wheels popular.
- **W.3.8** — Students gather the events from the text onto the RACES response chart before writing.
- **3.9(D)(iii)** — Students recognize that the article is organized by time order and use that order to explain cause and effect.
- **3.7(B)** — Students write a response that shows understanding of how Hot Wheels grew from one car to a worldwide favorite.
- **3.7(C)** — Students use text evidence about the events to support their answer.

Materials

- Student pages: passage with glossary and RACES response chart
- Lined response page with checklist
- Highlighters
- Optional: a toy car or a picture of a Hot Wheels track loop

Vocabulary

- **engineers** — people who plan and build machines and other things (*"He worked with real car designers and engineers"*)
- **stunt** — a daring or tricky action done to amaze people (*"race tracks, loops, and stunt sets"*)
- **collect** — to gather things and keep them because you like them (*"Hot Wheels cars became fun to collect too."*)
- **models** — different kinds or styles of the same thing (*"There are over 20,000 different models!"*)

Hook

Hold up a toy car (or show a picture of a track loop) and ask, "How do you think a tiny toy car became one of the most famous toys in the world?" Tell students the article tells the story in order, and their job is to find the events that made it happen.

Lesson steps

1

Hook

4 min

Teacher: Show the toy car or loop picture and take quick guesses about how Hot Wheels got popular.

Students: Share predictions with a partner.

2

Read & model (I do)

10 min

Teacher: Read the article aloud. Stop after "Hot Wheels cars first came to stores in 1968" and think aloud: "This is the first event, so I write a 1 in the margin. I'm looking for time words like soon, then and today to find what came next."

Students: Number events in the margin and box time words (first, soon, today).

3

Practice together (We do)

10 min

Teacher: Ask, "What happened soon after the first car, and what did it cause?" Guide students to "they added race tracks, loops, and stunt sets so kids could race and crash their cars at home" and talk about the word so as a cause-and-effect clue. Fill in R and A together.

Students: Highlight the stunt-set sentence and the real-car sentence; complete R and A on the chart.

4

Write with RACES (You do)

16 min

Teacher: Point to the stems "According to the text," "This shows that" and "In conclusion,".

Remind students to list the events in order using first, then and later.

Students: Finish C, E and S on the chart, then write the paragraph.

5

Share & check

5 min

Teacher: Have two students read their evidence sentences aloud and ask the class to check the events are in the right order.

Students: Use the checklist: capital letters, punctuation marks, correct spelling.

Text-dependent questions

- What was the first event in the Hot Wheels story?

Answer: "Hot Wheels cars first came to stores in 1968."

- Why did Elliot Handler work with real car designers and engineers?

Answer: He "wanted to make tiny cars that were cooler and faster than other toy cars."

- What happened after kids loved the Custom Camaro, and what did it let kids do?

Answer: The company added race tracks, loops, and stunt sets "so kids could race and crash their cars at home."

- What does Hot Wheels do today to make its toys special?

Answer: "Hot Wheels even teams up with real car companies to design toy versions of real cars."

Model RACES response

From this passage's answer key

R Restate	Hot Wheels became popular because of three important events.
A Answer	These events made the cars special and fun for everyone.
C Cite	According to the text, Hot Wheels were first made in 1968. Then the company added race tracks, loops, and stunt sets so kids could race and crash the cars. Later they worked with car companies to design toy versions of real cars.
E Explain	This shows that making the cars better as well as making fun play sets helped Hot Wheels become a favorite toy around the world.

S**Summarize**

In conclusion, these important events made Hot Wheels very popular among kids and adults alike.

Look-fors

- Names at least three events in time order (1968 start, stunt sets, real-car designs)
- Uses time words such as first, then, later
- Explains how the events made Hot Wheels popular
- Summary sentence restates the answer
- Capital letters, punctuation marks and correct spelling

Differentiate it**SUPPORT**

Give a three-box timeline (First / Then / Later) pre-labeled with 1968, and the frame "First, _____. Then, _____. Later, _____." before writing.

ON LEVEL

Complete the chart with the printed stems, then write the paragraph.

EXTENSION

Add the fact that more than 8 billion cars and over 20,000 models have been made and explain what these numbers show about how popular Hot Wheels became.

Exit ticket

Put these in order and write one sentence explaining what the last one caused: kids could collect cars; the Custom Camaro came out; stunt sets were added.

Teacher tip: Students often list facts (bright colors, 8 billion cars) instead of events. Ask, "Is this something that happened, and when?" to keep them focused on the sequence.