

PRIMARILY for U.S.*

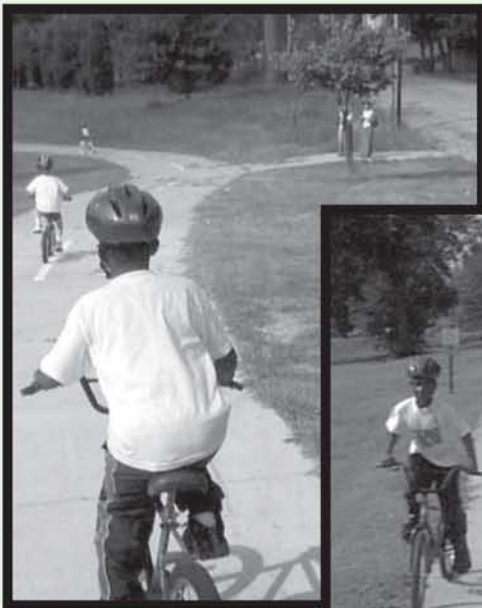
GRADES 2-3

* Understanding Science

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Ride like the wind!

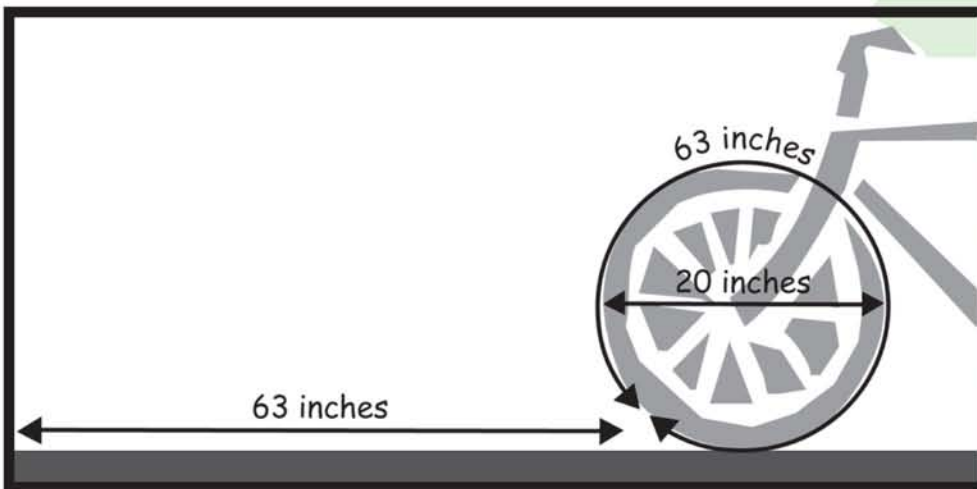
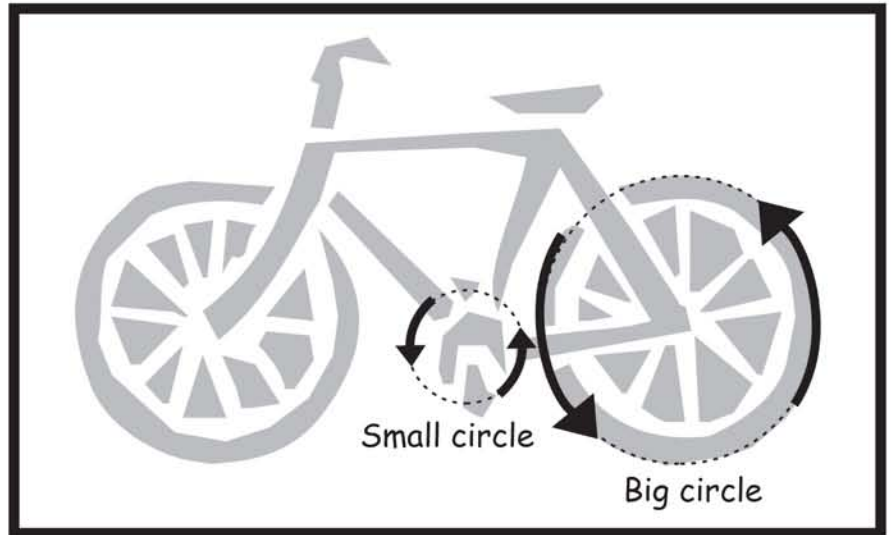
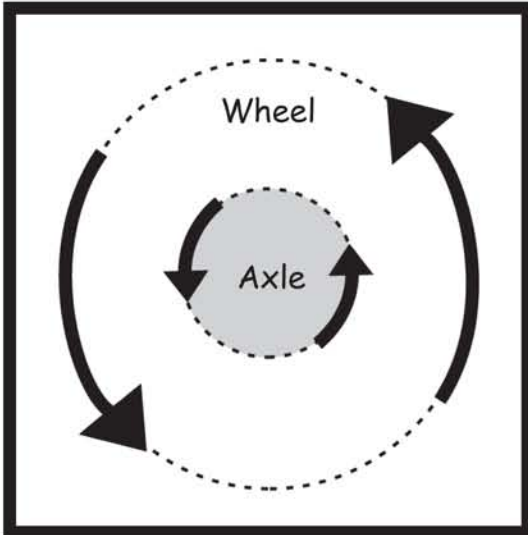
Photos: Bill Witherspoon



Why can you bike faster than you can run?
Who invented the bicycle?
Where can you ride without cars around?
Find the answers inside!

Why can you bike faster than you can run?

A bicycle uses a simple machine. It is called a wheel and axle. Your feet pedal in a small circle. The wheel goes in a big circle.



Two things help you go fast.

1. It is easier on your legs to push pedals than to run. First you push with one leg. Then you push with the other. Each leg can rest a little. You even get to sit down!
2. Each big circle of the wheel takes you a long way. A twenty-inch wheel takes you about sixty-three inches. I bet you can't jump that far!

Who invented the bicycle?

No one person invented the bicycle.

Here are some of the big steps.

1790 - Mr. de Sivrac of France made a "running machine." You pushed the ground with your feet. You could run or roll. You could not steer.



"running machine"

1817 - Baron von Drais of Germany added steering.



"bone shaker"

1865 - Bikes had a high wheel in front. This was not very safe. Tires were made of iron. This made a rough ride. Some bikes were called "bone shakers."

1870's - Bikes got a chain. Both wheels were now the same size. Bikes were safer. The ride was still rough.



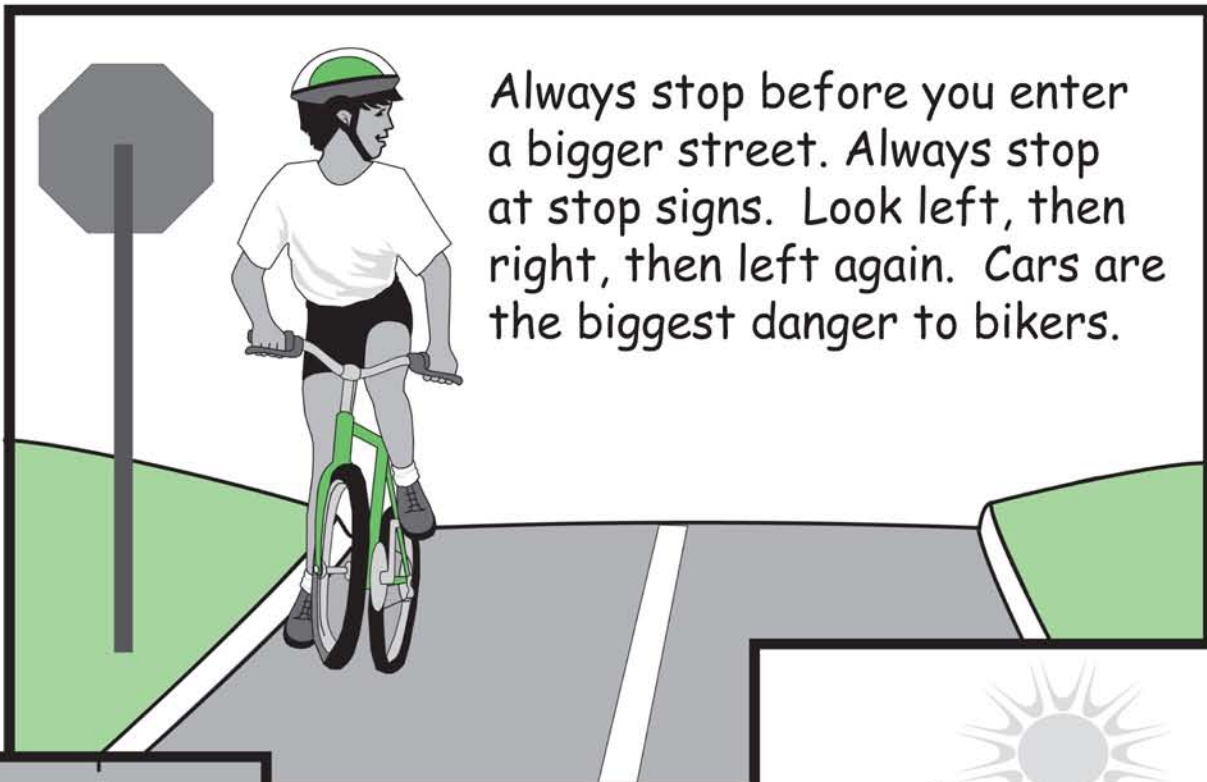
bike tires filled with air

1888 - John Dunlop of Ireland added rubber tires. They were filled with air. The ride was smooth. Bikes have been popular ever since.

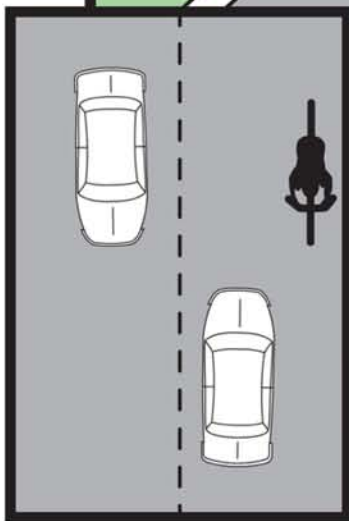
Do you know how to stay safe?

One day, you may ride in the street. An adult will ride with you at first. You must learn to be safe. Do you know all these rules?

Wear a helmet. This is the law. This will protect your head if you fall.



Always stop before you enter a bigger street. Always stop at stop signs. Look left, then right, then left again. Cars are the biggest danger to bikers.



Ride on the right side of the street. You must go in the same direction as the cars.



Ride only in the daytime. That way, drivers will see you.

Find a bike trail!

On a bike trail, you can go for miles with no cars around.

In DeKalb, there is a trail from Clarkston to the village of Stone Mountain. It is over four miles long. You can start in Clarkston on Church Street, just east of Norman Road.



Photo: Bill Witherspoon



Photo: www.silvercomettrailgeorgia.com

For a weekend outing, take your bike to the Silver Comet Trail. It is 38 miles long. Once a railroad came this way.

The Silver Comet Trail goes through an old railroad tunnel. To visit the tunnel, start from the Coot's Lake parking lot and pedal two miles east. The lot is between mile markers 27 and 28 on U.S. 278, east of Rockmart in Polk County.



Photo: www.silvercomettrailgeorgia.com

You can even go to a bike trail with your family using MARTA. Get off the train at Inman Park. Outside the station, turn right. Look for a green "PATH" sign. You have reached the Freedom Park Trail.

MARTA welcomes bikes. Always use the elevators. Make space for others on the train.

Inman Park MARTA Station and Freedom Park Trail.



Photos: Bill Witherspoon

Start of the Freedom Park Trail.

Make stickers for your bike helmet

Cut out the "Bike Trails are Great!" logo below. Put it on your bike helmet. Cover it completely with clear tape.

Then save this page. When you visit a new bike trail, find its logo (below.) Cut it out. Stick it on your helmet, too.



Color the comet's tail orange.



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Written by Bill Witherspoon with graphics by Sheila Ward.

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