

GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATION: 5-6

A BICYCLING WE WILL GO

CONTENT AREA: SOCIAL STUDIES, READING, WRITING, AND COMMUNICATING

LESSON TIME:
2 class periods

OBJECTIVE: To discover how the design of bicycles has changed over time as technology has developed.

- Materials:
1. Print resources
 2. Encyclopedias
 3. Internet connection
 4. Science journal

Adapted from: A bicycling we will go at: <http://scifiles.larc.nasa.gov>.

BACKGROUND:

Nobody knows exactly when the first bike was invented, but in the late 1700s there was a “hobbyhorse” that had wooden wheels, but no pedals. Their riders had to ride it by pushing it with their feet, and if they wanted to get off, they had to drag their feet until it stopped. Needless to say, only really strong people were able to ride a “hobbyhorse.” Through the years as technology became better, the bicycle began to change. Today there are many styles and kinds of bicycles to choose from. Bicycles are not only used for riding pleasure, but have also been adapted to do various jobs, such as a street sweeper and ice cream cart. You may even use yours for a paper route.

STANDARDS:

5TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

1. HISTORY

1. Analyze historical sources from multiple view points to develop an understanding of historical context.

1. Reading for All Purposes

2. Ideas found in a variety of informational texts need to be compared and understood

4. Research and Reasoning

1. High quality research required information that is organized and presented with documentation

6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

1. History

1. Analyze and interpret historical sources to ask and research historical questions

6TH GRADE READING, WRITING AND COMMUNICATION

3. Writing and Composition

2. Writing informational and persuasive genres for intended audiences and purpose requires ideas, organization and voice development

4. Research and Reasoning

1. Individual and group research projects require obtaining information on a topic from a variety of sources, organizing it for presentation

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WEB RESOURCES:

Japanese Bicycle History Research Club

Explore the history of bicycling in Japan. Includes photo galleries, articles and more.

<http://www.eva.hi-ho.ne.jp/ordinary/>

National Bicycle History of America Association (NBHAA)

Web site dedicated to the identification, cataloging, and restoration of American bikes from 1920-1965.

<http://www.nbhaa.com/>

Bicycles, History, Beauty, Fantasy

This web site has great pictures and historical accounts of bicycles from 1863 to 1901.

<http://antiquesandthearts.com/archive/bicycle.htm>

ACTIVITY:

Use the various print and internet resources to trace the history of the bicycle.

Write a one to two page report showing how technology changed the way the bicycle looks and works. Describe how the features of the various designs of the bicycle help to accomplish its purpose.

If possible, cut and paste pictures from various web sites for the report.

Present the report to the class.