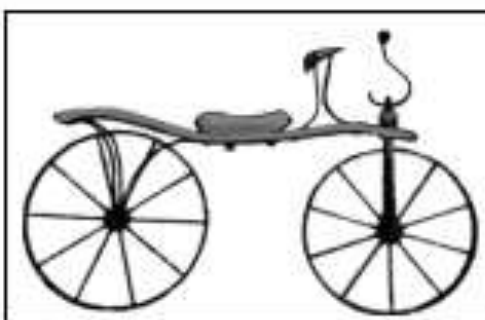


INVENTING THE BICYCLE: The Hobby Horse

The following pages describe how the bicycle was invented. Read the facts then answer the questions.

THE HOBBY HORSE

The first person to invent anything that looked a bit like a bicycle was Baron Karl von Drais in Germany. In 1817, he made a *running machine*. The newspapers called it a *Draisine* after its inventor. You had to push it along with your two feet on the ground. People preferred to call it the *Hobby Horse*. But it was the first two-wheeled, human-powered machine. During the summer of 1819, it became the latest craze in London. Riders, however, found that their boots wore out very quickly.



1. What did the inventor call his new machine? Circle one.

running machine

Draisine

hobby horse

2. How did the rider make it move?



3. When did it become very popular in London?

4. It had one disadvantage. What was that?

THE PEDAL BICYCLE

Kirkpatrick Macmillan was a Scottish blacksmith. One day in 1837, he saw a hobby horse being ridden along the road. He decided to make one for himself. When he finished, he realised it would be better if you didn't have to push it along with your feet. So he created pedals which were connected to the back wheel by rods. The rods made the wheel go round. The machine was heavy and it must have been tiring riding it. But Macmillan took only two days to ride it the 68 miles to Glasgow. On the way, he was fined five shillings for causing a slight injury to a small girl who ran in front of him.



1. What was Macmillan's job?



2. What gave him the idea of making a bicycle?

3. What made the back wheel go round?

4. How long did he take to cycle to Glasgow?

5. Why was he fined five shillings?

THE PENNY FARTHING

In 1869, a Frenchman called Eugène Meyer invented the *High Bicycle*. It was also known as the *High Wheeler* or the *Ordinary*. Later, it was nicknamed the Penny Farthing after the British coins at the time. The front wheel was bigger (penny) than the back wheel (farthing). The pedals were attached to the large front wheel, which made it very fast. This made it dangerous, especially for the rider. Being high up in the air, the rider would go flying if he or she hit a bump in the road. This led to serious injuries and sometimes death.



1. Which country did the inventor of this bicycle come from?

_____ 

2. It was given **four** different names. What were they?

3. How was it able to go very fast?

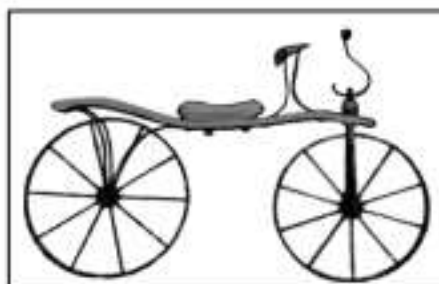
4. **Two** things made it a dangerous machine to ride. What were they?

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1. What did the inventor call his new machine? Circle one.

running machine

Draisine

hobby horse

2. How did the rider make it move?

pushed it with his / her feet



3. When did it become very popular in London?

summer, 1819

4. It had one disadvantage. What was that?

boots wore out very quickly

INVENTING THE BICYCLE: The First Pedal Bicycle

This invention was getting closer to something we might recognise as a bicycle.

THE PEDAL BICYCLE

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1. What was Macmillan's job?

blacksmith 

2. What gave him the idea of making a bicycle?

He saw a hobby horse being ridden along the road.

3. What made the back wheel go round?

Pedals were connected to the back wheel by rods.

4. How long did he take to cycle to Glasgow?

two days

5. Why was he fined five shillings?

He caused a slight injury to a small girl who ran in front of him.

THE PENNY FARTHING

In 1869, a Frenchman called Eugène Meyer invented the *High Bicycle*. It was also known as the *High Wheeler* or the *Ordinary*. Later, it was nicknamed the Penny Farthing after the British coins at the time. The front wheel was bigger (penny) than the back wheel (farthing). The pedals were attached to the large front wheel, which made it very fast. This made it dangerous, especially for the rider. Being high up in the air, the rider would go flying if he or she hit a bump in the road. This led to serious injuries and sometimes death.



1. Which country did the inventor of this bicycle come from?

France

2. It was given **four** different names. What were they?

High Bicycle, High Wheeler, Ordinary and Penny Farthing

3. How was it able to go very fast?

The pedals were attached to the large front wheel.

4. **Two** things made it a dangerous machine to ride. What were they?

It could go very fast.

The rider was very high up.
