



WHERE IT ALL STARTED...

THE HISTORY OF THE BICYCLE

BICYCLES – WHAT WONDERFUL MACHINES!

It's hard to imagine life now without bicycles, but go back just 200 years and there was no such thing!

What questions do you want answered about the history of bicycles?

Let's start at the very beginning, with the invention of a Walking Machine...

HISTORY OF BICYCLES

It all began in 1817...

German born Baron Karl von Drais invented a walking/running machine to help him get around royal gardens faster. It had...

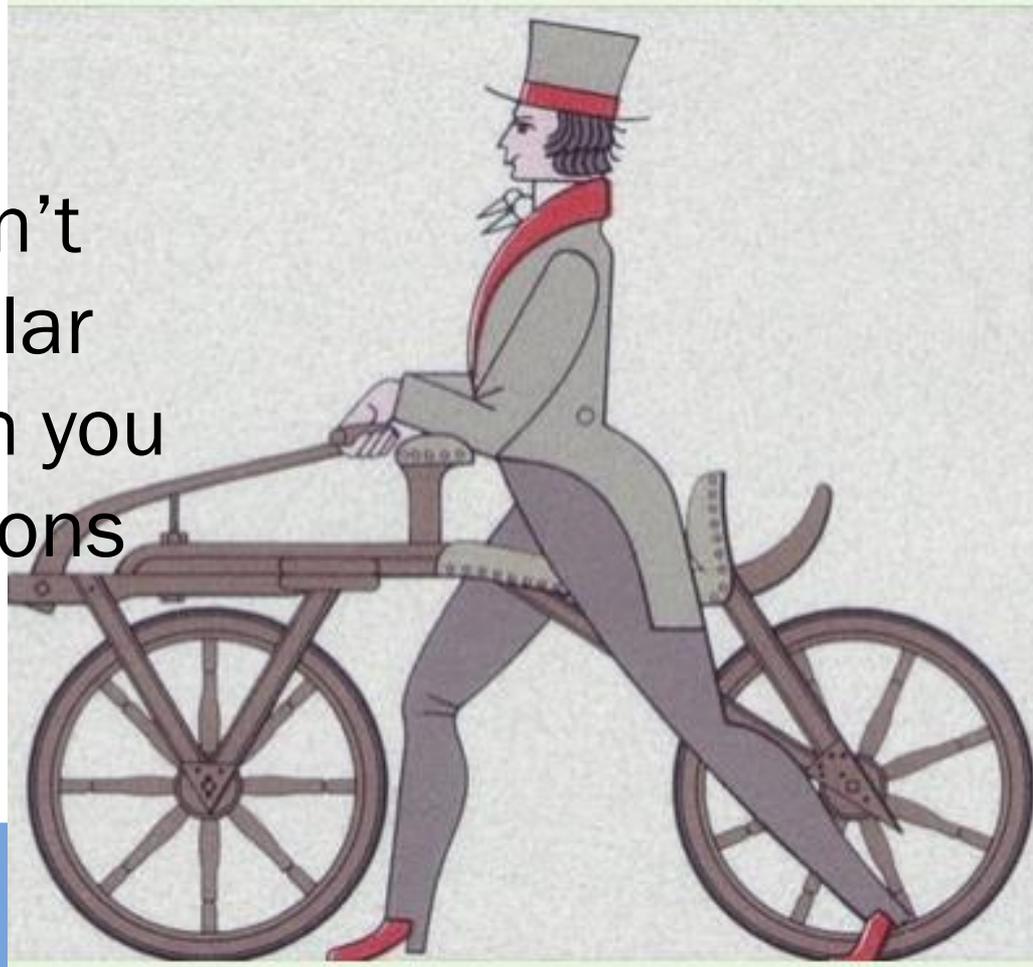
2 same-size in-line wheels, the front one steerable, mounted in a frame which you straddled.

Von Drais's idea was an instant success, but soon ridiculed and too expensive for most people. Von Drais died a pauper in 1851.

What is a pauper?

BARON VON DRAIS' WALKING MACHINE

The walking machine didn't remain popular for long! Can you think of reasons why?



1817 1865

The next two-wheeled riding machine included pedals applied directly to the front wheel.

This machine was known as the velocipede ("fast foot"), but was popularly known as the 'bone shaker,'

Why do you think it earned this nickname?

THE VELOCIPEDE (BONESHAKER)



1817 1865 1870

The High Wheel Bicycle, the first all metal machine appeared in 1870.

Rubber tyres and the long spokes of the front wheel meant a smoother ride.

The larger the wheel, the farther you could travel with one push of the pedals.

This was the 1st 'bicycle' ("two wheel").

It cost an average worker six month's pay so were popular with rich young men.



It was very easy to fall off! Can you think why?

1817 1865 1870 **1884**

Women found high wheeled bicycles and boneshakers undignified, because in order to ride one they had to lift their skirts.

Some women started to wear trousers, but this was seen as unacceptable.

Trikes were invented, with a seat that allowed women to ride whilst still being dignified.

A TRIKE FOR WOMEN 1880S



GIRLS USED TRICYCLES TOO



What differences can you spot between the girls trikes and the boy's bicycle?

QUAD BIKES AND TANDEMMS

The first quad bikes were designed for wealthy families in the 1880s



Bikes made for two (tandems) were known as 'Sociables'.

1817 1865 1870 1880S **1885**

Penny Farthing (High Wheels) were very unsafe, so inventors came up with a new kind of bike, known as 'Safeties'

In 1885 The Rover was invented in England. It looked very much like a modern bike today.

Both wheels were the same size and a chain was used to place the pedals in the middle of the frame.



THE ROVER 1885



1817 1865 1870 1880S 1885 1894

Elite cycling clubs began appearing in the UK and the US in the 1880s.

They were only for rich people.

In 1894 the 'League of American Wheelmen' officially banned black people from being able to join.

BIKES IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Bicycle frames have basically stayed the same for over 125 years now

The main changes were in the materials used:

Lightweight metals such as aluminium began to be used

Bikes began to be adapted for different purposes, such as...

Road bikes, racing bikes, mountain bikes, stunt bikes (like BMX)

1910s



1930s



1920s



1940s





1950s

What is different about the Chopper compared to the other bikes in the 20th Century so far?

1960s The Chopper Parents weren't keen on Chopper bikes, making them really popular with teenagers!



In the 1970s Folding Bikes became very popular.
Why might a folding bike be a good idea?



BMX BICYCLES BEGAN IN THE 1970S

Used for racing and doing 'tricks' these remain very popular



ADDING GEARS TO BIKES BECAME POPULAR IN THE 1980S



BICYCLE OF THE FUTURE...

So much has changed since those early walking machines. What will bikes be like in another 200 years?

Design a bike of the future. Draw a picture of your bike and label it. Then write a persuasive advert to encourage the people of the future to buy your bicycle.