

The First Bicycles

Course: English



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Teacher information

This activity is designed for learners working at **Entry 2** or above. The questions are based on information in this museum exhibition:

Cycle Pioneers 1868-1900

Learners can answer the questions on the **wipeable answer sheet**. There is a **vocabulary** sheet at the front of the pack.

In this activity, learners will practice:

- using illustrations, captions and images to locate information
- understanding the main points in texts
- sequencing words in alphabetical order

Introduction

Go to this exhibition to answer the questions:

Cycle Pioneers 1868-1900

You can answer the questions on the wipeable answer sheet.

What are **pioneers**?

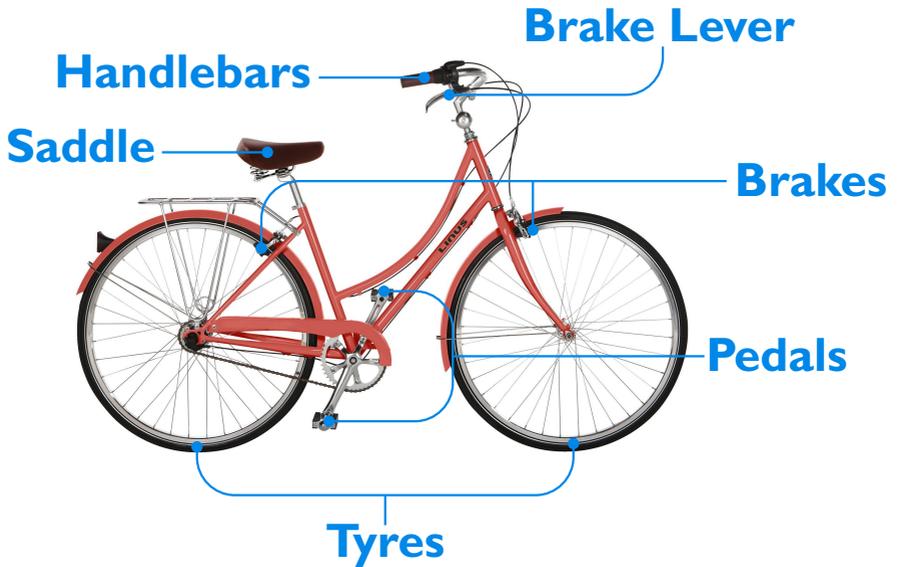
Pioneers are the first people to do something. The Cycle Pioneers 1868 - 1900 exhibition tells you about the people who were first to design and develop bicycles. It also tells you about the history of the bicycle and how the bicycle started out. To understand the history of the bicycle, you can look at the **captions** and **illustrations**.

Captions are labels or headings, and **illustrations** are pictures.

You can use the captions and illustrations in the museum to help you understand the history of the bicycle.

Vocabulary

Parts of a Bicycle



Brakes

These help the rider to slow down and stop a bicycle. The rider squeezes a lever on the handlebars to make the brakes work. The brakes squeeze on the wheels to make them stop.

Handlebars

A bar with a handle on each end. The rider holds each end of the handlebars to steer the bicycle.

Pedals

Pedals are platforms that turn mechanisms connected to the wheels of a bicycle. Riders push the pedals around with their feet.

Saddle

The seat that the rider sits on to ride a bicycle.

Tyres

A rubber covering, filled with air, around each wheel of a bicycle. Tyres make the bicycle travel over the ground more easily. They also make a bicycle more comfortable to ride.

The first bicycles invented did not have air-filled tyres.

History

Development of the Bicycle

Use these pictures to help you follow which design of bicycle came first, second and third and so on.



First



Second



Third

Questions

1. The first ever bicycle was called the **Hobby Horse**.

Look around the Cycle Pioneers 1868-1900 exhibition for this bicycle. You can find a picture and the real thing. The Hobby Horse did not have pedals like modern bicycles.

What else was missing from the Hobby Horse?

A. saddle

B. brakes

C. handlebars

2. The second type of bicycle was called the **Velocipede**.

Ask your teacher how to say this word.

Look for the Velocipede. You can find a picture and the real thing. This new bicycle had parts more like a modern bicycle. Take a good look.

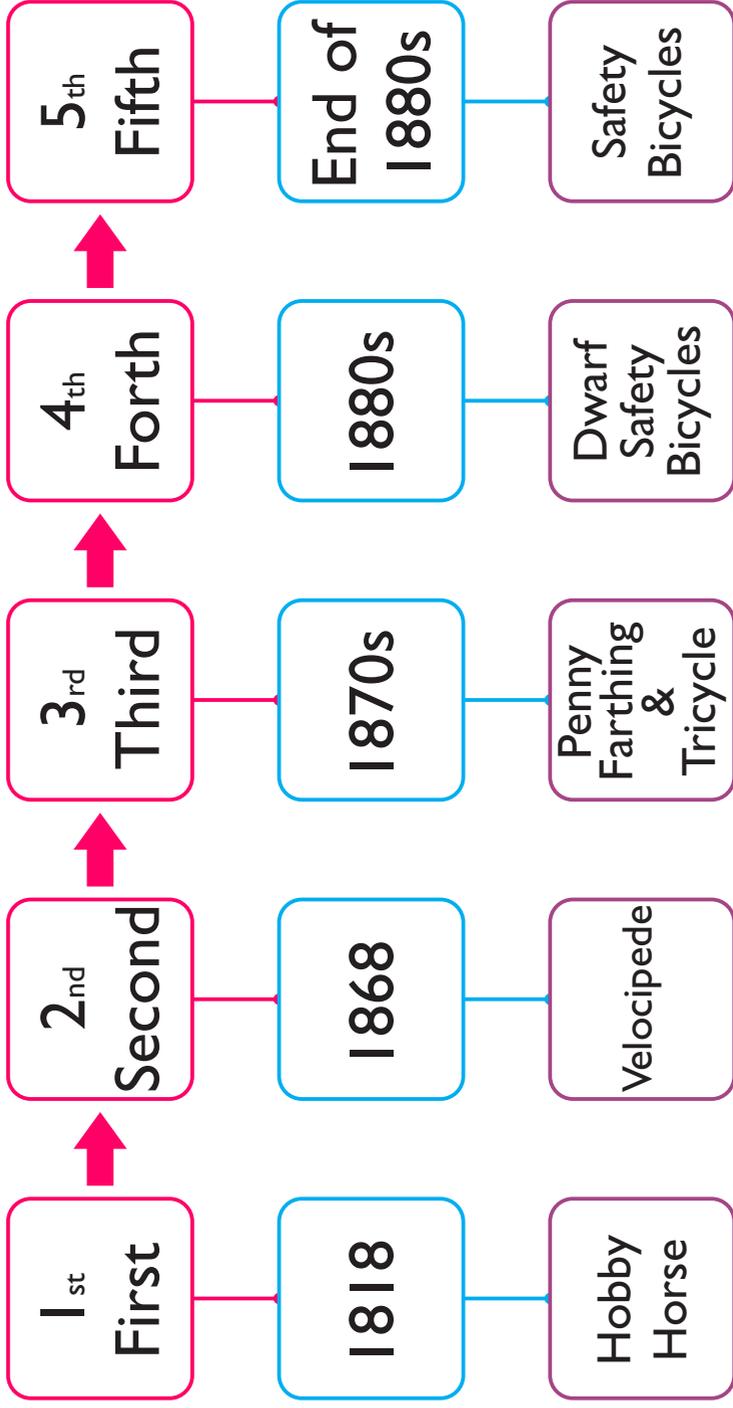
What did it have? Tick the parts.

A. brakes

B. pedals

C. tyres

Inventing the Bicycle



3. Look at the timeline 'Inventing the Bicycle'.

By the end of the 1880s there had been five important different bicycle designs.

Look at the names of the bicycles on the timeline.

Find each bicycle in the Cycle Pioneers 1868-1900 exhibition. This can be a real bicycle or a picture.

Which bicycle had one large wheel and one much smaller wheel?

A. The Hobby Horse

B. The Velocipede

C. The Penny Farthing

D. The Tricycle

4. Which cycle had three wheels?

A. The Hobby Horse

B. The Velocipede

C. The Tricycle

D. The Safety Bicycle

5. Women also rode these early cycles.



Look around the Cycle Pioneers 1868-1900 exhibition for pictures of women riding bicycles.

Write down the names of some cycles that women rode.

6. Look for the 1889 Whippet.

Read the information.

This bicycle did not have air-filled tyres like modern bicycles.

What two things did it have to make it more comfortable for the rider?

7. Put the bicycles from the 'Inventing the bicycle' timeline into alphabetical order.

Remember, if a name has two parts, use the first part.

Velocipede

Dwarf Safety Bicycle

Safety Bicycle

Penny Farthing

Hobby Horse