

# CYCLING







## Talk About It

How would your life be different if you had to bicycle everywhere?



Find out more about cycling at

[www.macmillanmh.com](http://www.macmillanmh.com)





## Vocabulary

spectators

demonstration

prominent

luxury

prevail

maneuvered

collective

adept



### Analogies

Analogies link pairs of words that relate in the same way.

*Diners are to eat as spectators are to \_\_\_\_\_.*

Answer: *watch*



# Bike Ride, Anyone?

by Amy Leung

Some people might find it surprising that the present times are not considered the “Golden Age of Bicycling,” since there are so many different bikes available. Believe it or not, this Golden Age occurred more than 100 years ago in the 1890s when horses were the main form of transport.

The first modern bicycle can be traced back to 1839 in Scotland. A variety of “bikes” followed. By the 1870s, James Starley of England was producing bikes. His bike, called the Ordinary, had a huge front and a small back wheel. Many **spectators** came to the 1876 U.S. Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia to see a **demonstration** of how the Ordinary worked. Some models became more **prominent**, or well-known, than others. One bike designed in the United States was a real **luxury**. It cost more than some people made in a year!

In 1885 the Coventry Machinists Company in England produced a 50-pound machine called the Rover. It was built like the modern bicycle. By the 1890s the Ordinary and the Rover were



pitted against each other. Eventually, the Ordinary faded from production and the Rover would **prevail**. The Rover was simply faster and more easily **maneuvered**, or controlled, up and down hills and around corners.

Bicycling really became popular in the 1890s because it was nearly as fast as a horse and required less care and expense. People rode their bikes through the country and the city. Changes began to take place as bicycling increased in popularity.

As more people began biking, they formed the League of American Wheelmen. The league had one **collective** goal: All members wanted to improve bicycling conditions. The league worked to get roads paved for easier passage in all types of weather. It also published a bicycling magazine and established bicycle etiquette.

Women were good cyclists, just as **adept** at riding as men. Susan B. Anthony, the famous women’s rights advocate, said that the bicycle had done wonders for women’s freedom. Isn’t it wonderful that a bike could improve women’s rights?

In the 1970s the mountain bike made bicycling even more popular. Adults joined kids and teenagers on their bikes. Biking is a fun pastime and a fantastic alternative to driving.



## Reread for Comprehension



### Make Inferences and Analyze

#### Fact and Opinion

Making inferences and analyzing information can help you decide what is fact and opinion in a selection. A fact is a statement that can be proven true. An opinion is a statement of someone’s feelings or beliefs. An opinion is not true or false.

Use the Fact and Opinion Chart as you reread “Bike Ride, Anyone?”

Fact	Opinion