



MINIS AT HOME

volume 1, issue 32

Greetings kids, parents, grandparents, guardians, friends and neighbors!

Welcome to issue 32 of Minis at Home newsletter. This is our last newsletter of the school year. We hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletters as much as we have enjoyed preparing them for you. Remember that exploring the natural world, working on projects together with your family, and making time to read are all important activities to keep mind and body healthy.

This week's theme = Bicycles

It's that time of year when we are heading outside more and more as the weather becomes warmer and our days become longer. Some of us might enjoy a walk, some of us might ride horses, and some of us may play soccer, but many of us like to ride bikes and scooters best.

Bicycle comes from "bi," which means two, and "cycle," which means circle. Wheels, of course, are shaped like circles. Bicycles have 2 wheels, 2 peddles, a frame and handlebars. There is a chain that is connected to cogs. When you push the pedals with your legs, this turns the chain, which then turns the back wheel. You steer the front wheel with the handlebars. The short name for "bicycle" is "bike." It takes a little practice to balance on a bike. Children who are just learning to balance on a bike may use training wheels that keep the bike from falling over. Very young children can ride a tricycle (or "trike"), which has three wheels and can't tip at all. A person that rides a bike is called a **cyclist**. Do you ride a bike or a trike? How about other people in your family?



People all over the world ride bicycles as a way of getting around. They bike for exercise, to deliver things to other people, to race, or just to have fun. There are over one **billion** bikes in the world. In some countries, there are more bicycles than cars, and many places have special riding lanes and stop lights on the road just for bikes. Riding a bike is great for the environment because we are not using our cars, so we are not using as much gasoline, which pollutes the air. A bicycle is a human-powered vehicle!



Cyclists in China



The most famous bike race in the world is called the Tour de France. It has been around for about 100 years. It takes place mostly in France, but riders sometimes visit other European countries, too. The Tour de France is the largest, longest and most challenging bike race in the world. Cyclists ride for 3 weeks up and down steep mountain roads at very high speeds. Some bikes can speed down a hill as fast as a fast-moving car.





The very first bicycle was invented over 200 years ago by Karl von Davis. He wanted a carriage without a horse so he could get around faster, so he invented the "draisine." This bike was made out of wood with 2 metal wheels, but it did not have pedals! The rider would push off with their feet to make the wheels turn, and the handlebars steered the front wheel.

It was a lot of work pushing off with your feet in order to get the bike to move! It was also very bumpy and uncomfortable to sit on.

A few years later, another inventor invented pedals, but it was difficult to turn the wheels because the frame and wheels were made out of very heavy metal. Then, a special bike named the penny-farthing, was created. This bike had a large front wheel with a seat on top of that wheel, and a smaller rear wheel. This made the peddling easier and the bike faster, but if you fell off your bike, you'd have a long way to fall! Ouch!! The penny-farthing got its name because at the time in Britain, there were two different sizes of coins (money): A "penny" was a large coin and a "farthing" was a much smaller coin. The bike was made from metal, just like coins, and its tires were rubber.



Later on, another inventor decided that if the tires were the same size and lower to the ground, the rider would be safer from falling. He also made the bike lighter and easier to peddle by making the rubber tires hollow and air-filled. Brakes and gears were added, and this design is still used on the bikes we have today.

Do you know why girls and women's bikes have a slanted frame? Because when bikes were first invented and becoming very popular over a hundred years ago, women and girls only wore dresses! The slanted frame allowed the dress to stay over their legs, and it was easier to get onto the seat of the bike when wearing a dress.

There are different kinds of bikes depending on their purpose. There are city or utility bikes that are very comfortable and easy to ride, allowing you to sit upright. These bikes have fatter tires to make it safer and easier to ride on bumpy roads and sidewalks. Many of these bikes have baskets or bins so you can carry groceries or shopping bags. Some people even carry their small dogs, and many families ride with their babies in bike seats. Can you find two dogs below?



There are racing bikes also known as "road bikes," where the cyclist is bent over the frame of the bike making their body streamlined. When they pedal in this position, the bike goes faster. Sleek racing bikes are the lightest bikes, many made out of the special aluminum that is extra light and strong. The racing bike also has very thin tires.

A BMX bike, or freestyle racing bike, is used in the Olympics. These bikes are small "trick" bikes and riders compete in races performing acrobatics such as jumping over ramps, spinning and flipping in the air.

Mountain bikes allow you to cycle in nature through mountain trails and on dirt roads. A mountain bike has wide tires and bumpy tread, making it easy to ride through dirt, streams and up and down steep, rough trails. People can even ride on the sand and the snow on a mountain bike.



If you want to ride with a friend on the same bike, there is a special bike just for that. It's called a **tandem bike**. This bike is peddled by two people and has 2 seats, 4 peddles and 2 handlebars. It's a long bike!

If you live in a busy city with many cars, you might see bike couriers. Bike couriers deliver things to people and businesses. When there is too much traffic and cars can't move easily, a bike courier is faster. Couriers are excellent cyclists and can beat city traffic by speeding around traffic jams and weaving around cars.

Other people have turned their bikes into shops! This woman is a florist on wheels.



Bicycles are not the only human-powered vehicles, though. We talked about tricycles for kids, but there are also unicycles. "Uni" means one, so how many wheels do you think these cycles have?

While most anyone can get the hang of balancing on a bike after awhile, it's very hard to balance on a unicycle! Sometimes you'll see unicycle performers at a circus.

A man named Roger Dumas from Maine once built a bicycle for 52 people. This bike had 26 wheels and was 140 feet long! If you could design your own bike, what would it look like?

Activity: Craft

Bike Collage

If you could ride anywhere, real or pretend, where would you go? In this craft, you will color or paint your dream destination. Would you ride on the beach? Would you ride in space? Would you ride through a rainbow or in a land with dinosaurs, unicorns or giant trees?



Materials:

Watercolor paper or card stock

Black card stock or construction paper

Assorted colors of card stock or construction paper

Glue stick

Scissors

Paint and paintbrush or crayons

Procedure:

Think about where you would bike if you could go anywhere, real or pretend.

On watercolor paper or card stock, use paint or crayons to create that special place.

To make your bicycle, trace and cut out 2 circles from black paper. Hollow out the circles into tire rims, and cut small, thin strips for the spokes (you can choose how large or small you want your tires to be).

Use any other color of your choosing for the frame, seat and handlebars. Cut out
4 long, skinny rectangles (for the frame of the bike)
1 shorter rectangle (for the handlebars)
1 oval (for the seat)

Glue 2 of the long skinny rectangles into a sideways lying "v" shape < onto your background

Glue the other 2 rectangles to each side of the |<| — this is your bike's frame.

Glue on the handlebars and the oval bike seat

Glue on the tires and the spokes.

Have a great adventure!

CYCLING SAFETY REMINDERS:

(from <https://one.nhtsa.gov/people/injury>)



1. Always wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet to protect your head – every time you ride.
2. Use a bicycle that is the correct size for you, not one that is too big.
3. Before you ride, make sure you don't have any loose clothing, drawstrings, or shoelaces; they can get caught in your chain and make you fall.
4. Have an adult check the air in your tires and make sure that your brakes are working.
5. Wear bright clothes so others can see you at all times of the day.
6. Stay alert at all times; never listen to music when riding. Pay attention and watch for cars, people, and other bicyclists around you.

Rules of the Road:

1. When riding in the road, always ride on the right-hand side (same direction as traffic).
2. Obey traffic laws, including all the traffic signs and signals.
3. Ride predictably—ride in a straight line, don't weave in and out of traffic.
4. When riding on a sidewalk —show respect for the people walking on the sidewalk. Ring your bell to let them know you are coming and always pass them on the left.
5. Look for debris on your route that could cause you to fall off your bicycle, like trash, stones, or toys.
6. Don't bicycle at night. If you must ride, make sure your bike has reflectors and lights and wear retro-reflective materials on your ankles, wrists, back and helmet.
7. Before you enter any street or intersection, check for traffic by looking left-right-left to make sure no cars or trucks are there.

Activity: Sing, Move and Ride!

Ride, Ride, Ride Your Bike!

(preschoolcurriculumbytheme.com)

(sung to "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Ride, ride, ride your bike.
You will go so fast!
Hear the wind and feel the breeze,
Then watch the sky go past!



The Wheels on My Bike

(kidstvnurseryrhmes.com)

(sung to "The Wheels on the Bus")

The wheels on my bike go round and round (spin arms around each other)
Round and round, round and round
The wheels on my bike go round and round
All through the town

The handle on my bike goes left and right (hands holding handlebars, left side and right side alternating)
Left and right, left and right
The handle on my bike goes left and right
All through the town

The pedals on my bike go up and down (stand onto tippy toes and then heels down)
Up and down, up and down
The pedals on my bike go up and down
All through the town

The bell on my bike goes tring, tring, tring (make a ring sound)
Tring, tring, tring, tring, tring
The bell on my bike goes tring, tring, tring
All through the town



"Bicycle Built for Two" also known as "Daisy Bell"

(originally written by Harry Dacre, c. 1892)

Daisy, Daisy
Give me your answer do
I'm half-crazy
All for the love of you
It won't be a stylish marriage
I can't afford a carriage
But you'll look sweet
Upon the seat
Of a bicycle built for two



Daisy, Daisy
Give me your answer do
I'm half-crazy
All for the love of you
We'll spend all our life together
Regardless of the weather
And you'll look sweet
Upon the seat
Of a bicycle built for two



Daisy, Daisy
Give me your answer do
I'm half-crazy
All for the love of you
We'll leave when the ball is over
Get married in the clover
And you'll look sweet
Upon the seat
Of a bicycle built for two
On a bicycle built for two
On a bicycle built for two

You can watch and listen to this classic here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78MKBHR3NbU>

This is our final Minis at Home Newsletter as we all "cycle" off into summertime fun. We hope you all stay safe and have tons of FUN on your bikes. Remember to **ALWAYS WEAR YOUR HELMET!**



Literacy: RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Snuggle up in a big comfy chair and read together

Duck on a Bike by David Shannon

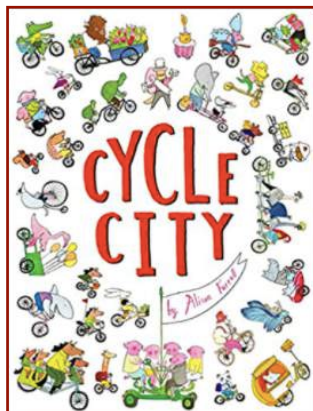
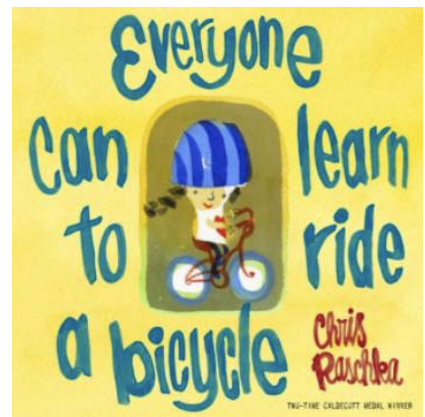
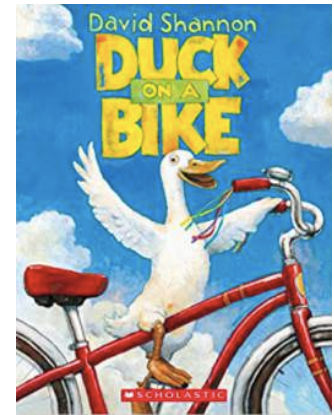
Bike On, Bear! by Cynthea Liu

If You Give a Girl a Bike by Hayley Diep

Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bike by Chris Raschka

Cycle City by Alison Farrell

Hello, Bicycle! by Ella Boyd



Creatively yours,

Ann Hansen,
Director of Mini Masters at
the Academy Art Museum
ahansen@academyartmuseum.org

Constance Del Nero,
Director of Children's
Education and Community
Programs
cdelnero@academyartmuseum.org

Remember that all 32 **Minis at Home** newsletters are available on the Museum's website:
<https://academyartmuseum.org/learn/youth-and-family/mini-masters/>

Share your work on <https://www.instagram.com/minimastersaam/>
or email pictures to **Ann Hansen** ahansen@academyartmuseum.org
or **Constance Del Nero** cdelnero@academyartmuseum.org

Please Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/minimastersacademy>