

# Marshall County Museum

## Pedaling Through Time



### Read:

Have you ever ridden a bicycle? Once you know how, it is easy and fun. But bicycles didn't start out that way. The first bike was made of wood with steel wheels, and it had no pedals. To operate it you had to run. It weighed 48 pounds! That may be heavier than you are! Inventors built on one another's ideas to continue to improve the bicycle. Today, more than 15 MILLION bikes are sold each year. Take a close look at old and new bikes, and then discover the amazing history of bicycles through a timeline challenge. Share your own ideas about how you would improve the bicycle.

### Do:

- ♦ Look at the **Bicycle: Then and Now Diagram** on the next page. Write what you notice about each bicycle underneath the photo. Write what they have in common in the middle. If you have your own bike, use that instead of the picture.
- ♦ Cut out the Bicycle Timeline entries. Read them over and look for clues to help you put them in order from the earliest to the most recent.
- ♦ Make your timeline into a banner you can hang up. Attach the entries to a ribbon or string.
- ♦ Update the bike! How would you change it? How could you make it look or work better? What features would you include? Use the empty box at the bottom of this page to draw your own design.

### Share:

- ♦ Tell your family about what you have learned. If you had the chance, which bike would you like to ride?
- ♦ Hang your timeline banner someplace in your home to help others learn something about bicycles.
- ♦ Post a picture of you in front of your banner, or post a picture of your original design for the bike of the future on social media with the hashtag #MCMuseumFromHome.



# Bicycles: Then and Now Diagram

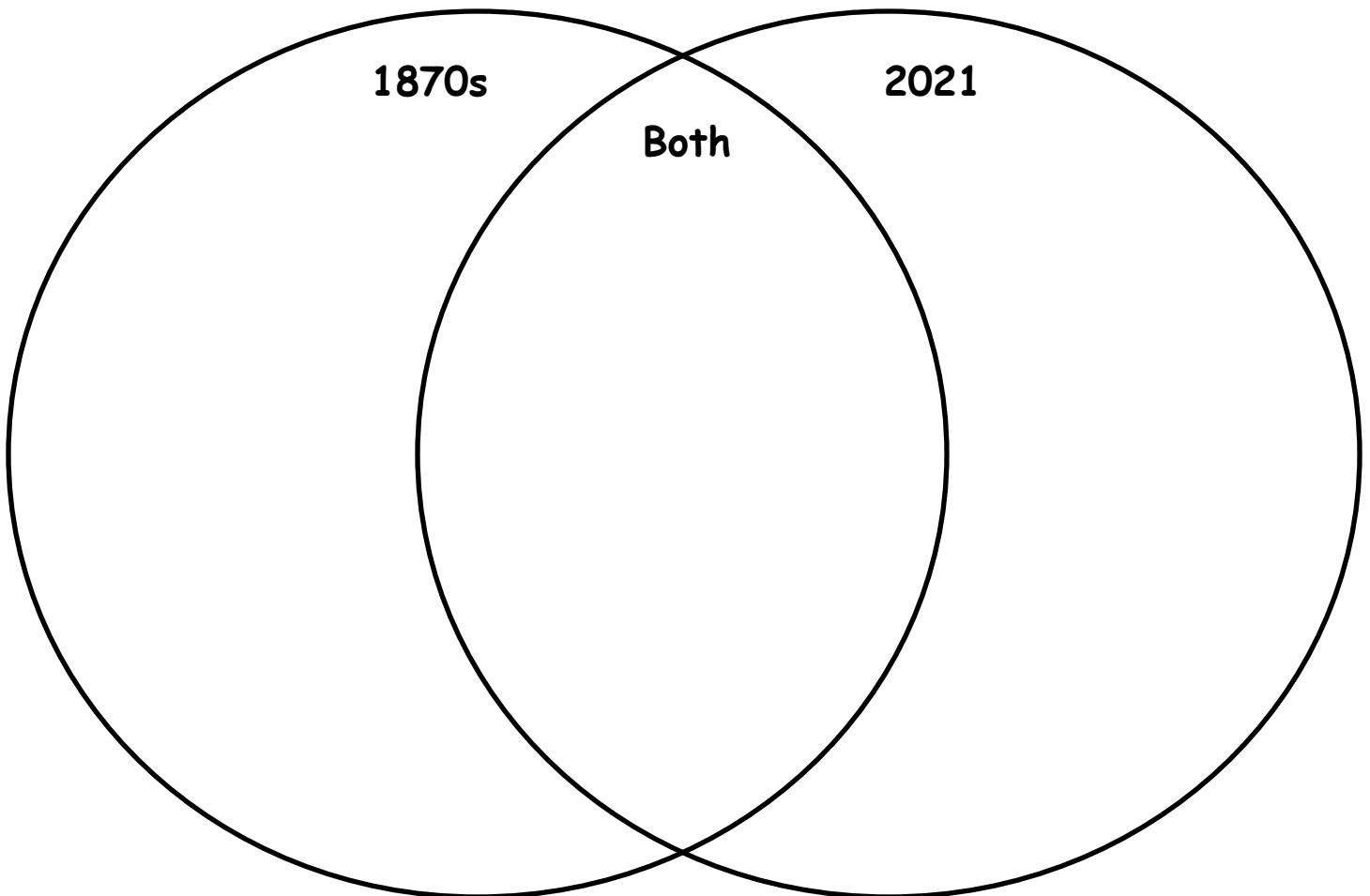
Take a look at the picture of each bike. Write down the details you notice in the circles underneath the pictures. In the middle, write down what they have in common.



**Then**



**Now**



# Bicycles: Then and Now Timeline

Cut out the timeline entries on the dotted lines and use the clue to organize them in time order from the earliest to the most recent.

An Olympic sport since 2008, **BMX bicycle** racing has become wildly popular. The BMX is designed for stunt riding and racing on rough roads and tracks. They have few accessories, such as fenders, and they have thick, reinforced tires.

The **Penny Farthing** was invented as a way of increasing the top speed of the bicycle. The bigger the front wheel where the pedals are, the faster it could go. Women could not ride these because the fashions of the 1870s made it too hard to get on it.



It was a little over 50 years after the first bicycle was invented when pedals were added to the front wheel. The **Velocipede** was nicknamed 'the boneshaker' due to its uncomfortable ride.



The **Safety Bicycle** saw the return to riding with just two wheels of the same size, and the end of the high wheel designs. Women could more easily ride this bike without getting their long 1890s skirts caught in the wheels.



The **Electric Bicycle** was first mass produced and marketed in 1991, about 100 years after it was invented. It runs with the aid of an electric motor and reaches speeds of 20 miles per hour.





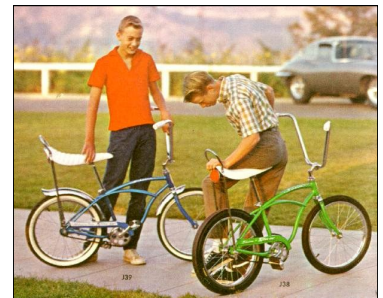
Although off-road biking has been around since the 1800s (since there weren't many roads back then), the first **Mountain Bicycles** were manufactured in 1978. They have a wider frame and fork, wider tires, and a straight handlebar.



Although the first **bicycle kickstands** were two feet long and bolted onto the handlebars, built-in kickstands were developed in the 1940's. They didn't really look like ones we have today.



Some kids in California started putting 'banana' seats and 'butterfly' handlebars on 20-inch bicycles to make them look like 'chopper' motorcycles in the early 1960s. The Schwinn Company quickly copied it and called it the **Stingray**.



The first bicycle was invented by Karl von Drais in Germany. The 1817 '**Draisine**' had no pedals - to operate it you had to run. It was made of wood with steel-rimmed wheels.



Children's Bicycles like this **Colson 'Fairy' Bike** were unheard of until cars were invented, and adults didn't rely on them for transportation anymore. After the 1920s, bikes became toys and transportation for those too young to drive a car.

