

The Mini Page

Next Week:
Our favorite
pet

Issue 18, 2018

Founded by Betty Debnam

Fun on Two Wheels



Mini Fact:
National Bike to School Day is Wednesday, May 9.

Do you have a bicycle? More and more adults and kids are getting on their bikes and taking to the road, lane or path. Today, about 100 million Americans cycle. Some cycle more than others, but the number is growing.

May is National Bike Month. The Mini Page learns more about cycling and staying safe while riding.



Why cycle?

- Many people think cycling offers a way to:
 - get where you are going;
 - stay healthy and keep in shape;
 - save money on transportation;
 - help planet Earth by not polluting the air;
 - cut down on traffic congestion.

When kids or adults are cycling, they can notice things they miss from a car, such as sounds of the neighborhood and seeing friends.

Who cycles?

Workers in Oregon and the District of Columbia bike to work more than people in any other state, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Police officers are using bikes to get around cities more easily and have more contact with people.



These police officers in Bellingham, Washington, use bikes to patrol the city.

compartment attached, are popular in many cities around the United States. People hire the rider to deliver them to another location, just as a taxi cab would.



This pedicab is in New York City.



Some schools have started **bicycle trains** — groups of kids who bike together to school with adult supervision. Having a group to ride with can make parents feel better about letting their kids pedal to school.

Cities stepping up

In many cities, bicyclists have convinced the government to make changes that make biking safer and more convenient. For example, some streets may have bike lanes painted on the surface. Drivers of cars know that bikes may be in that lane.



Transportation such as buses and trains are providing bike racks so that bikers can ride part of the way to work or school and pedal the rest of the way.

Bike safety checklist

Put a checkmark ✓ next to the bike safety rules that you follow every time you ride. Put an X next to the ones you need to improve on.

1. I use a basket to carry things.	2. I ride in single file on roads.	3. I ride in the same direction as traffic.
4. I check the air in my tires before riding.	5. I watch out for objects in the street.	6. I use a backpack to carry things.
7. I walk my bike across crosswalks.	8. I signal before I make a turn.	9. I ride with my shoes on.
10. I wear a helmet every time I ride.	11. I ride the correct size bike.	12. I pass pedestrians on the left.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPbiketoschool
- bit.ly/MPbikesafety
- bit.ly/MPbiketips

At the library:

- “Bicycle Safety” by Peggy Pancella
- “Pedal Power: How One Community Became the Bicycle Capital of the World” by Allan Drummond

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of bicycling are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

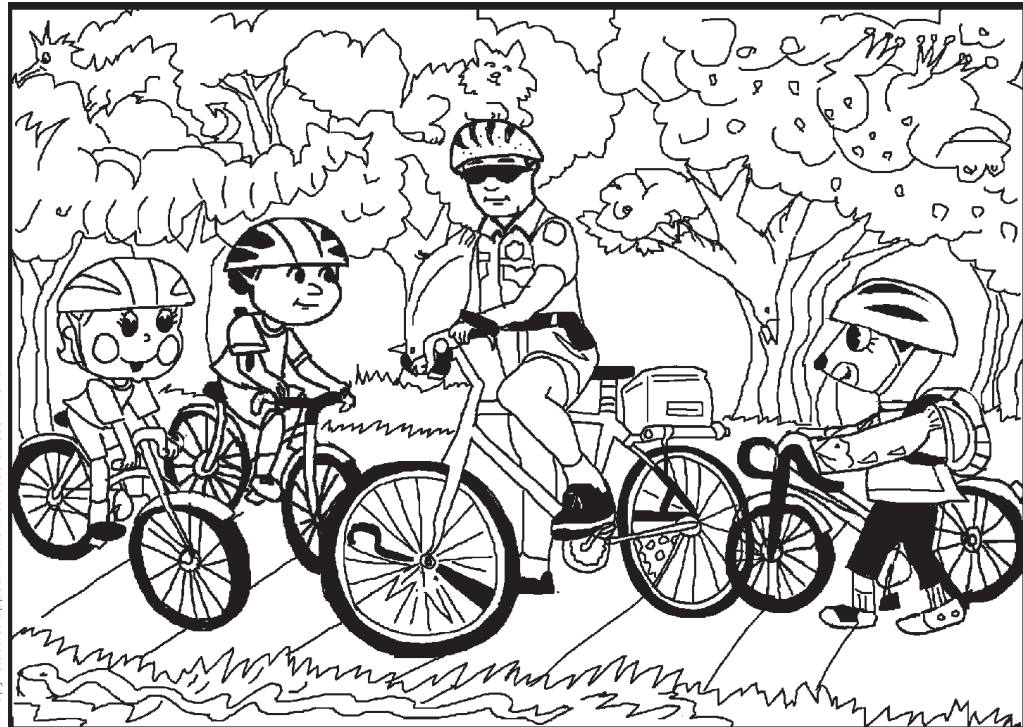


- BICYCLE, BUSES,
- CONGESTION,
- GOVERNMENT, HEALTHY,
- HELMET, LANE, PATH,
- PEDICAB, POLICE,
- POLLUTION, RACK,
- ROAD, RULES, SAFETY,
- SIGNAL, TIRES, TRAFFIC,
- TRAIN, WHEELS.

K H X E H E A L T H Y P P L N
 U P A T H W H E E L S E M O O
 E N A L B I C Y C L E D F Z I
 F A A S A F E T Y P N I Q K T
 G O V E R N M E N T I C C X S
 S E R I T B U S E S A A D S E
 H E L M E T E D A O R B B E G
 G E P O L I C E Y D T B B L N
 L A N G I S C I F F A R T U O
 Y N O I T U L L O P K Q W R C

Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and her friends are talking with a bicycle policeman. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



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- exclamation mark
- elephant head
- croissant
- frog
- cat
- fish
- bird
- dragon
- number 7
- question mark
- word MINI
- funny face
- snake
- bell
- pizza slice
- letter D
- flying bird
- mushroom
- letter A

Mini Jokes



Bill: What's the hardest thing about learning to ride a bike?
Bianca: The pavement!

Eco Note



In 1893, mice were accidentally introduced on Antipodes Island in the sub-Antarctic Ocean by a shipwreck or seal hunters. Since then, they've caused extinctions of local birds unique to the island. But since 2014, New Zealand's "Million Dollar Mouse" project has eliminated more than 200,000 mice, which officials hope will allow the parakeets, pipits, snipe and insects to thrive on the predator-free island.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for notices about Bike to School Day, and talk to your friends about organizing a bike train.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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