

Pet Listening: The Bicycle

Listen to the Radio show about The Bicycle and Answer the questions.

1. The bike is a _____ powered vehicle with _____ wheels
2. It was first seen in Europe in the _____ century.
3. How many bicycles are there in the world today? _____.
4. It is the main means of transport in what 2 countries? _____ and _____.
5. What types of uses does the bicycle have? _____ and _____.
6. When was the first bicycle developed? _____.
7. What modern things have helped in Bicycle design? _____ and _____.

The bicycle, bike, or cycle, is a pedal-driven, 1) **human-powered** vehicle with **two** wheels attached to a frame, one behind the other.

First introduced in 2) **19th-century** Europe, bicycles now number approximately 3) **one billion** worldwide, providing the principal means of transportation in many regions, 4) **notably China and the Netherlands**. They also provide a popular form of recreation, and have been adapted for use in many other fields of human activity, including 5) **children's toys, adult fitness, military and police applications, courier services, and cycle sports**.

The basic shape and configuration of a typical bicycle has hardly changed since the first chain-driven model was developed 6) **around 1885**, although many important details have been improved, especially since the advent of 7) **modern materials and computer-aided design**. These have allowed for a proliferation of specialized designs for particular types of cycling.