

Cycling Safety for Students

Let's stay safe together



Fascinating facts about bikes

Bikes and cycling are very popular in Australia, and you probably know a lot about them. However, here are a few fascinating facts you may not know.

- Bikes can be used for lots of reasons:
 1. Getting to school or work
 2. Working – think about couriers, police officers and postal workers
 3. Entertainment – BMX racing and stunts
 4. Competition – racing and trick events
 5. Exercise
 6. Travelling the world
- There are over one billion bicycles around the world. This is double the number of cars!
- The invention of the bicycle had some unexpected consequences. In the late 1800s more women were using bicycles to get around, but the clothing they wore in those days (large skirts and tight corsets) made riding a bicycle difficult. To make riding easier, women started wearing the 'bicycle suit' which had 'bloomer-style' pants. This was a real fashion statement, and was quite shocking at the time.
- The first cycling track race was in 1842. Track cycling was included for men in the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, but women did not compete until the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.
- The world's most famous bike race, the Tour de France, was first held in 1903. It takes three weeks to complete, and riders travel through the Pyrenees and the Alps before finishing in Paris.
- The Australian equivalent to the Tour de France is the Tour Down Under which is also well-known around the world. It started in 1999 and sees riders riding around South Australia over nine days.
- Have you ever seen or ridden a tandem bicycle? These are designed for two or more people. Sounds fun!



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- One of the early bicycles was known as the 'boneshaker'. This was because it had an iron frame and wooden wheels. When it was ridden on uneven or rough ground it shook the bones of the rider!
- In the 1880s Annie 'Londonderry' Cohen Kopchovsky was the first woman to cycle around the world. It took her 15 months. She began in Boston and travelled around the United States before visiting France, Egypt, Jerusalem, Yemen, Colombo and Singapore.
- Do you know the top ten bike-riding countries? Have a guess before reading below!

10. China
9. Belgium
8. Switzerland
7. Japan
6. Finland
5. Norway
4. Sweden
3. Germany
2. Denmark

And number 1 goes to... The Netherlands!

