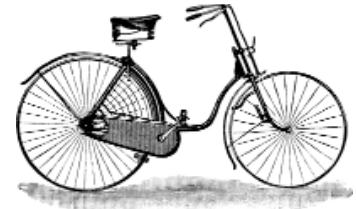


Name: _____

Main Idea and Text Structure Worksheet 6

Directions: Read each passage and...

- A. Write a sentence explaining the main idea of the text
- B. Create a graphic organizer representing the information in the text
- C. Come up with a title related to the main idea of the passage.



1885 – Chain Driven Bicycle

1. Bicycles are an excellent choice when it comes to transportation. Biking is healthy and faster than walking, but it is also dangerous. Each year tens of thousands of people are killed or injured while riding a bicycle. This is because our roads are designed for motorists and not cyclists, but we can change the landscape. Each time a road is built or rebuilt, we should put in bike lanes. Clearly marked bicycle lanes will give cyclists a safer place to ride. Our cyclists deserve this little bit of consideration. In fact, their very lives are depending on it.

2. Congratulations on your purchase of the Flag Master 5000! You'll find this state of the art system will allow you to display your bicycle flag higher than ever, and installation is a snap. Just attach the Flag Master carrier unit to the rear axle of your bicycle frame with the provided clamps. Once the carrier is secure, drop the base of your flag into the flag carrier and you're ready to ride. Your heart will swell with pride as you navigate the streets of your neighborhood waving the flag of your favorite sports team, nation, state, or maybe your flag will just be a solid color. Enjoy your breathtaking rise to the heights of popularity with this fashionable bicycle accessory.

3. Have you ever wondered how mountain bikes can ride so smoothly on rough surfaces? The reason for this is that mountain bikes have suspension systems. Suspension systems keep the wheels in continuous contact with the ground. This improves control and insulates the rider from changes in the surface. Suspension systems also reduce vibrations and make the ride more comfortable. Just don't get too comfortable and put your feet up because you still need those for peddling.

4. Buying a bicycle is exciting and rewarding, but choosing the right bicycle requires some thought. One of the major considerations is whether to get a mountain bike, a racing bike, or a BMX bike. All of these have the parts that you would expect from a bicycle: a frame, pedals, two wheels, a chain-- but mountain bikes and racing bikes have multiple gears while BMX bikes have only one gear. Multiple gears give the rider the ability to increase or decrease the force required to push the pedals. This can be an advantage when you are travelling over a variety of surfaces. Racing bikes and mountain bikes both have multiple gears, but mountain bikes tend to have thicker, more rugged tires that allow the cyclist to travel off of the path more smoothly. Racing bikes may go faster than mountain bikes on streets, but they are pretty much limited to riding on paved roads. Like mountain bikes, BMX bikes are built for off-roading. BMX bikes even have a popular off-road race culture associated with them, but if you plan on riding great distances, you would probably find a mountain bike to be more comfortable. When it's time to make that big purchase, you should weigh these considerations

5. When you are riding a bicycle in traffic, it is important to communicate your intentions with the motorists around you. In other words, you have to tell people where you are going with signals. This is not so difficult though. When you want to turn left, just extend your left arm out horizontally in the direction that you are turning. If you want to turn right, extend your left elbow horizontally, but point your fingers up at the sky. This will make an "L" shape and will let the people around you know that you are turning right. If you are breaking, extend your left elbow in the same way, but point your fingers downward. This indicates that you will be stopping suddenly. Practice these signals and you'll be a considerate cyclist. Many motorists will want to accommodate you if let them know what you are doing.

6. Bicycles are a pretty old innovation when compared to something like a mobile phone. Some say a Scottish blacksmith named Kirkpatrick MacMillan invented the first self-propelled two-wheeled vehicle, or bicycle, in 1839. MacMillan's design connected the pedals to the wheel with rods. J. K. Starley improved on this design in 1885 when he created the first chain driven bicycle. Starley's work was so good that most bicycles today have similar designs. Some important features have been added since then: cable brakes were introduced in the 1890s, which gave bicycles greater stopping power, and derailleur systems, which allowed the rider to change gears, were invented in 1905. Today's bicycles have lightweight frames, precision manufactured parts, and are more affordable than ever, yet surprisingly little has changed since Starley's original design. I guess that it's hard to improve upon perfection.