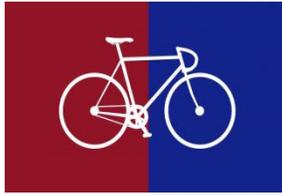


A Biking History - Primary Sources

Subject: English

Grades: 4-6



English Standards of Learning: 4.6, 5.6, 6.6 (nonfiction reading)

Resources:

- ❖ Attached photos, *Teacher's Guide for Analyzing Photographs & Prints* for teacher's use only (projector to display images on whiteboard or board)
- ❖ <http://loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/guides.html>
- ❖ <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/>
- ❖ <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Begin the lesson by asking students what they know about biking. Do you imagine bikes look the same today as they did when your parents and grandparents were your age? How are they different? Why? Explain that students will make inferences/conclusions about biking based on pictures.

Project PHOTO A. Ask the students to list what objects are in the picture and how they are arranged. Have them describe what they think is going on in the picture. They should answer orally.

Then ask students to look at the picture and answer the 5 Ws: who, what, when, where, why, how. They should write down their answers.

Ask the students to write a caption for the picture based on the answers to the 5 Ws. Have students share the captions.

When students have shared their captions, you can share that PHOTO A is a picture of members of the Independent Cycle Club outside their clubhouse at 1319 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. It is close to where the Virginia Commonwealth University's Siegel Center is today.

Repeat the activity using PHOTO B this time. Guide the questions so students can compare and contrast the two photos.

After students have written a caption for PHOTO B and shared with the class, you can share with them that the **top photo** is one of many races at the Exposition Field in Richmond, Virginia. An estimated 15,000 spectators watched the new sport (1892). The best place to see a bike race was the Richmond Exposition on the horse racing track. Motor sports evolved from bike racing, but bike racing evolved from horse racing! The **bottom photo** is the Trump Tour in Richmond, Virginia (1989). For two years, Donald Trump owned/financed America's bike race. Because of financial problems, he ended his sponsorship before the 1991 race and the chemical company DuPont became the sponsor changing the name of the race to Tour DuPont. Later, the Tour DuPont was forced to shut down because promoters started arguing over money.

Divide students into four groups. Give each group a photo. Each group’s photo will be different. *If you have magnifying glasses, they may enjoy using them to see more details in the photos.*

Ask the group to decide on a caption for each photo and write it on the bottom of their papers. Ask groups to share the photos and their observations and captions.

Review students’ findings in a whole-class discussion. After the discussion of each photo, share the information below.

Photo 1 shows pictures of women’s and men’s fashions in the early 1900s. The caption explains that riding a bike had a huge influence on fashion. Photo 2 is a picture of Marshall “Major” Taylor leading the race. He had the nickname “Major” because he wore a military style uniform. Photo 3 is a group of “couriers” in Norfolk, Virginia in 1900. Photo 4 is a picture of William Martin on a “penny farthing” bicycle. He won a six-day race at Madison Square Garden in 1891—the race was described as the long distance championship of the world.

Bibliography

Houff, Thomas. *On Richmond’s Wheel - A Timeline History of Cycling in Richmond, Virginia*. Richmond: Carter, 2012. Print.