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extracts from

My Book of Bike Activities

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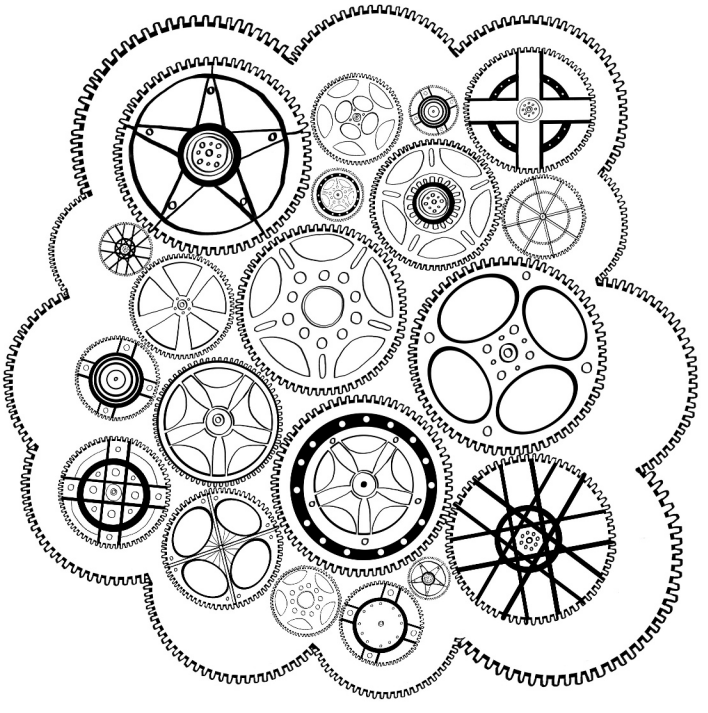
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Chain links

How many bicycle chain wheels can you count on this page? Now colour in the patterns. Answers page 48.



The Dandy Horse or Draisine



In 1815, a German nobleman called Baron Drais von Sauerbronn was very worried about the terrible results of a huge volcano eruption that had spread dark ash all over the world. It blotted out the sun and caused the failure of the crops and death of many horses. In those days, horses were the main means of transport, at least for rich people. So, in 1817, the Baron invented a vehicle that was a mix of a horse and a carriage and it wouldn't need to be fed!

The riders had to push this Dandy Horse or Hobby Horse along with their legs so it was more like a game than a practical way to travel. In fact, in a short time the volcano ash disappeared, horses came back into fashion and Baron Drais's invention was abandoned. But it wasn't entirely forgotten and 150 years later, someone had the clever idea of adding pedals to the front wheel and a brake for the back wheel – the modern bicycle had arrived.

Hill too steep?



The city of Trondheim in Norway has a solution. This city has the highest number of cyclists in Norway but it also has a lot of hills. So they've installed a bicycle lift to help cyclists up the steepest hill in town. To use the lift, riders put one foot on the moving belt and balancing on their wheels, they're pulled to the top of the hill. Can you invent a useful piece of technology to help cyclists?

Velodrome

Velodromes are special tracks for very speedy bike racing. They are usually indoors, are an oval shape and have steep banks and a curve at each end.

The riders can go as fast as 85 kph (52 mph) and they have no brakes! To slow down you pedal backwards.

In a race you just have to keep the speed up. If you slow down, the bike falls over.

Like road racers, velodrome team racers ride very close to each other to take advantage of the slipstream (see page 18).



Your turn to draw your own Velodrome racing bike here.