Bicycles have a fairly varied history. They've been around for almost two hundred years now, and they have evolved significantly during that time. The first bicycles were built completely different and were not nearly as comfortable as now.

* 1817—Draisienne or the "Running Machine": Invented by Barn Karl von Drais, Germany; This machine was less like a bicycle, in the modern sense of the word. It did have a typical bicycle frame and two wheels, but it was propelled by walking (apparently the bicycle allowed more of a gliding walk), as opposed to peddling.
* 1860s—Velocipede or Boneshaker: Two-wheeled bicycle with pedals and cranks on the front wheel. It was known as the bone shaker because the combination of a wood frame and metal tires made for a very uncomfortable ride over cobblestone streets.
* 1870s—High-wheeled bicycle: One of the first models to be called a "bicycle" (after its two wheels). The high wheel allowed the rider to travel farther with a single rotation of the pedals. Moreover, a metal frame and rubber tires provided a more comfortable ride than the boneshaker.
* 1885—Rover Safety bicycle: Invented by John Kemp Starely, England; Featured a strong enough metal to make a chain, plus it had two same-sized wheels and a similar frame to today’s bicycles.
* 1888—Pnuematic tires: Invented by John Boyd Dunlop, Ireland; Develops air-filled tires that provide a smoother ride than the previously used hard-rubber tires.
* 1920s—Kid's bicycles become popular.
* 1940s—Built-in kickstands developed.
* 1960s—Racing bicycles become popular and feature dropped handlebars, narrow tires, numerous speeds and a lighter frame.
* 1980—Spurred by mountain biking and extreme sports, mountain bicycles become a popular consumer item and feature sturdier frames, larger wheels and flat handlebars.
* 1996—Mountain bicycles appear in the Olympics.





