

1 Subways Move Us

Morning, **midday**, and well past midnight, you will see people riding on subways. These underground rail systems provide public transportation for the planet's biggest cities. They also provide a fast, cheap way for people to travel. On the subway, people can get from **midtown** to the outer **suburbs** for just a few bucks or less.

The world's first **subway**, called "The Underground," opened in 1863 in London, England. The first **subway** in the U.S. opened in Boston in 1897. Now, more than 30 U.S. cities operate **subways**.

Inspired by underground travel, artists have made **subways** the subject of dances, films, and songs. Billy Strayhorn's jazz song, "Take the A Train," is about a New York City **subway** line. Well-known musicians Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald made the song into one of the most famous tunes of the 20th century.

Word Count: 140



Glossary Links
transportation
midtown



What kind of public transportation is in your city or town? Tell about it.



Use with Teaching Guide, page 532.



Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 220

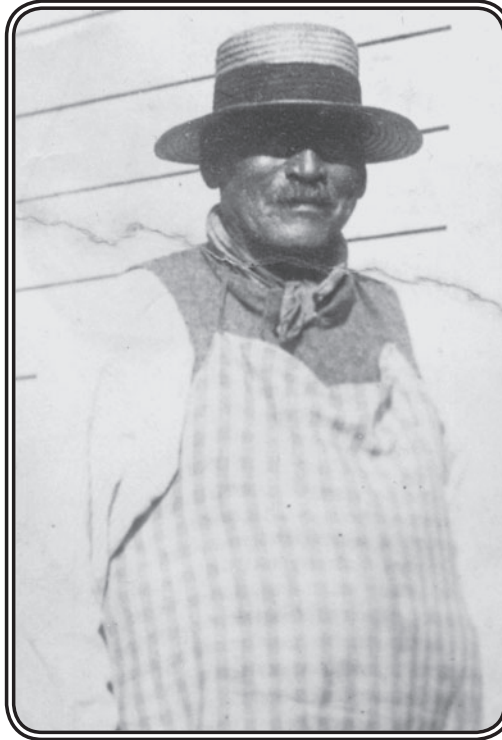
SAM Keyword: DD 24.1

1 A Tasty Mistake

Did you know that the potato chip was invented by **mistake**?

The story goes like this: In 1853, a chef named George Crum was cooking at a fancy restaurant in upstate New York.

One night, a diner sent a plate of French fries back to the kitchen. He complained that the fries were too thick and soggy. He also claimed that they lacked salt. Crum **disagreed**, but he tried to make the customer happy. He cooked thinner, saltier fries. Yet, the man still **disliked** them.



Now Crum felt angry. He decided to annoy the fussy customer. Crum fried paper-thin potato slices and put lots of salt on them. These fries were too thin and crisp to eat with a fork. Surely, the customer would dislike them. But Crum **misjudged** the picky eater. The man loved them! Other diners asked for Crum's potato chips, too.

Crum soon realized he'd invented a fantastic food. He later started his own restaurant that served potato chips.

Word Count: 163



What kind of a man is George Crum?
Write two or three words that tell about him.

Glossary Links

soggy
picky



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Resource Links

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SAM Keyword: DD 24.2

1 History of the Bicycle

Most kids know how to ride a **bicycle**. But do you know the history of **bicycles**?

A kind of cycle was invented in France in the 1700s. A toymaker put a wheel on the bottom of a wooden horse. To ride this contraption, a child sat on the horse and pushed with his feet. Since the horse had just one wheel, it was really a **unicycle**.



Later, in 1817, a German inventor made a **bicycle** with two wheels. But it had no pedals. He used the **bicycle** to glide down the street. Even without pedals, it was faster than walking.

Glossary Links

vehicle
terrain

Over the next few decades, inventors made new kinds of **bicycles** and a **tricycle**. A **tricycle** is a three-wheeled vehicle that little kids ride.

The first modern **bicycle** was invented around 1863. This bike had pedals like the bikes we see today. But inventors did not stop there. Today, you can get a bike for riding city streets, for bouncing over rocky terrain, or for racing at amazing speeds. There is a **bicycle** for wherever you may go.

Word Count: 178



What changes would you make to today's bicycles?



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Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 228

SAM Keyword: DD 24.5