

BMX BIKING

Try the wildest bike ride ever!

Comprehension Skills

- **Lesson 4:**
Making
Generalizations
- **Lesson 5:**
Connecting
Across Texts

Reading Strategy

Stop and Think About What You Read

Often, readers rush through important details. Take a break as you read. Make sure that you understand everything.

Most bike riders want a smooth ride. BMX bikers are different. They want a wild ride, filled with thrills. They jump. They skid. They hit the bumps hard. And they do it at top speed on dirt tracks.

BMX stands for bike motor cross. The sport began with off-road motorcycle racing. Then people began to try it with bicycles. Today, BMX is a sport with its own stars and fans. BMX riders can win big money prizes. Races are shown on TV. Some races even take place on city streets.



This BMX vert biker flies off high ramps to “get air.”

So how did BMX get started? Older kids started riding smaller bikes. They **discovered** that smaller bikes were easier to control. It was easier to pull up on the handlebars and pop wheelies. Soon more people were **exploring** ways to do even bolder tricks. Riders learned to hop on one wheel. They rode their bikes backwards by sitting on the handlebars. Soon they started racing.

BMX began in Southern California in the early 1970s. Soon it spread to other parts of the country. Today, riders choose between different BMX events. BMX vert bikers use ramps to “get air.” BMX park riders take on a course of stair, rails, pipes, and more. BMX flatland is all about tricks of balance. Then there’s the mountain bikers, dirt jumpers, the downhill racers. How many more roads will BMX bikers go down? ■

Take a Bike Hike

*This is my trail.
I'm like a wolf
With wheels.
I tear through
The woods.
Branches tug
On my clothes.
Nothing can
Hold me back.
I make dirt fly.
Jumping hills
I turn and skid.
Don't even try
To catch me.*



Vocabulary

discovered: found
exploring: searching for