

Wild Wheels!

Introduction

This teacher's guide helps teach young adults about Motorcycles. While reading about these fast and powerful machines students will learn about the history and design of many different types of motorcycles and their place in racing and popular culture. Special effort has been made to include many basic mechanical systems common to all motorcycles and explain their function.

National Standards

This series supports Language Arts and Science curriculum. Go to www.enslowclassroom.com and/or www.enslow.com and click on the Curriculum Correlations tab. Click on your state, grade level, and curriculum standard to display how any book in this series backs up your state's specific curriculum standard.

Classroom Activities

Activities for teaching the five curriculum areas: Reading/Language Arts; Math, Science; Social Studies; and the Arts, can be found in this teacher's guide. Readers will practice sight words and repetitive text as they learn about famous foreign sports cars and what makes them special.

Guided Reading Level: S

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Wild Wheels! Teacher's Guide
For
Hottest Motorcycles

Throughout human history there has been a need to always go faster. Motorcycles allow the rider to experience speed out in the elements of nature and meet this need for speed in an exciting way. In this book, students are presented with interesting facts about motorcycles, their history, and an introduction to the many different styles of motorcycles built today. The many photos and descriptive text provide plenty of excitement.

Here is some basic information that you can share with your students about the motorcycles featured in the book. Websites are also listed for additional information.

Motorcycle Basics

Motorcycle Racing – Today motorcycle racing takes three major forms: Road Races or Circuit Races, where the motorcycles race on city streets or along specially constructed tracks, Motocross Racing which is perhaps the most extreme form of the sport and addressed in its own chapter, and Endurance Races. Endurance races take place over several days and across different types of terrain, both on and off the road. The first official motorcycle race in America took place in 1901.

For more information visit www.motorcycle-usa.com

Cruisers – The class of motorcycles known as “cruisers” are large, powerful street bikes that can easily carry two passengers at high speed. The best known maker of this type of motorcycle is Harley-Davidson. The “Harley” has become a household name since Harley-Davidson introduced their first motorcycle in 1901. Today’s cruisers are huge bikes, sometimes outfitted with state-of-the-art touring equipment such as GPS guidance, MP3 sound systems, cruise control, and even airbags.

For more information visit www.motorcyclecruiser.com

Choppers – The name Chopper is a reference to the spare parts that were once “chopped” off of mass produced motorcycles when their riders wanted to customize them. Today, these machines are often built from scratch, and are regarded by motorcycle enthusiasts as functional works of art.

For more information visit www.orangecountychoppers.com

Motocross Extreme Racers – The most extreme kind of motorcycle racing, motocross is the sport of racing lightweight motorcycles known as “dirt bikes” across rugged off-road terrain. Motocross takes many forms, including ice racing where the motorcycles race across frozen lakes and ponds on metal studded tires, and “Moto X” where the racers perform amazing jumps and tricks known as “aerials.” Because races don’t take place on public roads, no driver’s license is required. This enables the sport to attract many competitors who would be too young to compete in other forms of racing.

For more information visit www.motocross.com

Superbikes – The class of motorcycles known as superbikes are small, lightweight sport bikes with extremely large, powerful engines. This combination provides the rider with the ability to reach very high speeds. Available in both street versions and racing versions, these bikes are admired by enthusiasts for their flashy styling and heart stopping speed. Foreign motorcycle makers such as Honda, Kawasaki, Ducati, Yamaha, and Suzuki all have devoted followings among superbike fans, much like the devotion shown by cruiser enthusiasts for the Harley-Davidson.

For more information visit www.ducati-superbikes.com

Motorcycle Topics Featured in this Book

- p.13 Motorcycle Racing Records
- p.19 The Harley – Davidson
- p.29 Choppers
- p.34 Moto X
- p.43 The First Superbike

Activities

The Five Curriculum Areas

SAFETY WARNING:

Before any activity make sure your students do not have any allergies to items that you might use. Never use anything that is sharp or may cut a student. Do not use anything too hot or cold which may injure a student. Always have an adult supervise all activities to ensure the safety of your students.

Reading/Language Arts activity:

Vocabulary and repetitive phrases for young adult readers are featured throughout the book. Additional vocabulary specific to this book may be found in the Glossary, beginning on page 45. As an additional exercise, ask your student to research the motorcycles featured in the book and write 100 words about their favorite.

Math activity:

The book gives the dimensions of each motorcycle engine in “cc’s.” Help your students to visualize the difference in size between the different engines by using graph paper. Ask your students to select two motorcycles in the book. Then, with each square on the graph paper equal to 10 cc’s, have them shade enough squares to approximate the size of each engine. Have them answer the following question: “If engine size = speed, which motorcycle is faster?”.

Science activity: Have your students think about the relationship between weight and speed. Take two glass jars and fill one of the jars with water. Make sure both lids are on securely. Place two three-ring binders on a level floor and start both of the jars from the top of these “ramps.” Recruit a student to be your “racer” and being careful to use the same amount of force, give the jars a push to get them rolling. As the jars begin rolling on the flat surface, the greater weight of the full jar causes friction between the jar and the floor as well as friction between the water and the inside of the jar and the full jar loses the race. Have your students observe the demonstration and record the results.

Social Studies activity:

The book features motorcycles that are manufactured by companies all over the world (for example, Harley-Davidson bikes are made in the US, Ducati bikes are made in Italy, etc.) Give each student a world map. Have them research the different motorcycles featured in the book and mark the different countries of origin on the map.

Arts activity:

Chapter Three focuses on Choppers, which are highly customized vehicles. Explain that many Choppers are ordered by customers who want their motorcycle to reflect something about their lives, such as where they live or what kind of job they have. Have your student design a Chopper that tells you something important about them.

1. How much do you remember? Match each motorcycle with its description. Draw a line.

Cruiser	A lightweight bike with a large engine, built to drive at high speeds.
Superbike	Highly customized bikes, built from scratch or by “chopping up” a regular motorcycle.
Dirt bike	Raced on wheels with metal studs, to grip the ice.
Chopper	Built for riding long distances.
Ice Racer	Ridden in races on dirt tracks, sometimes by young drivers.

2. Fill in the blank.

_____ motorcycles are also called “Hogs.”

Jesse James is a celebrity builder of custom motorcycles known as _____.

The abbreviation _____ stands for “cubic centimeters.”

The Ducati is a superbike built in _____.

A _____ is “fully dressed” when it comes equipped with luxury items for long distance touring.

_____ is a kind of motorcycle race run on a dirt track where kids as young as four can compete.