## Bikes in Style

arly bicycles looked surprisingly like the hightech bikes we see today, except they were made of wood and metal, and had no brakes or pedals. The first patent for what we might consider a bike was issued in Germany in 1818.

Since then, bikes' popularity has had its ups and downs. But biking today is at an all-time high. Cities across the U.S. and around the world have introduced public bike-sharing systems, in which heavy-duty bikes are parked in stalls. Both locals and tourists can rent them to run errands or see a city's sights. Bicycle commuters are still uncommon in many major U.S. cities, but their numbers have been on the rise.

For some, bicycles are a speedy alternative to walking. But they're also a relatively inexpensive, combustion-free alternative to cars or public transportation, so they're more environmentally friendly. Biking is good exercise—or just a fun way to spend an afternoon.

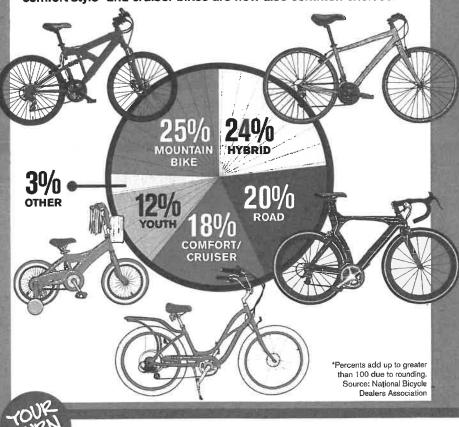
In Europe and Asia, electric bicycles are popular. They can be pedaled like other bikes, but they also have electric motors to assist riders up the more difficult hills!

So whether you're careening down a hillside, cruising around the neighborhood, or headed to school, there's a different bike for every need. Who knows what the next trend could be?

-Greg Uyeno

## WHICH BIKE DO YOU LIKE?

In 2012, a total of 18.7 million bicycles were sold in the U.S. Mountain bikes were once the most popular, but hybrid (a cross between a road bike and a mountain bike) and easier to ride "comfort style" and cruiser bikes are now also common choices."



Answer the following questions using the information in the charts and graphs above.

About how many comfort/ cruiser bikes were sold in the U.S. in 2012?

**(A)** 2.2 million

© 3.7 million

**B** 3.4 million

4.7 million

About how many bicycle commuters per 1,000 residents lived in Seattle in 2014?

**A** 13

© 21

**B** 18

**D** 38

About how many Americans said in autumn 2008 that they had been cycling in the past 12 months?

A 48 million

© 66 million

® 57 million

© 70 million

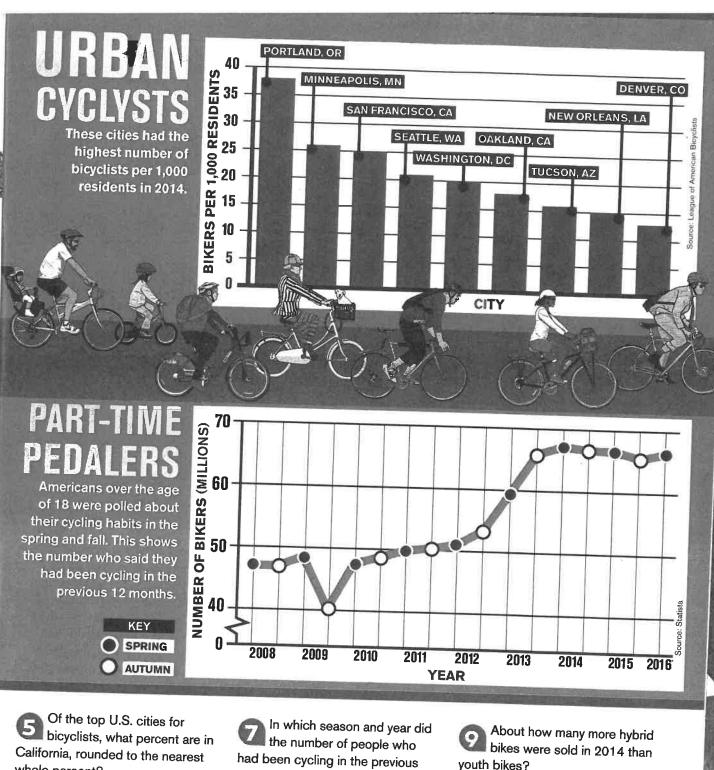
About how many more Americans said they had been cycling in the past 12 months in autumn 2012 than in spring 2012?

**A** 1 million

© 12 million

**B** 3 million

© 20 million



whole percent?

**A** 9%

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- © 33%
- **B** 22%
- **D** 45%

What was the most popular type of bike sold in the U.S. in 2012?

- Mountain
- B Hybrid
- © Road
- Comfort/Cruiser

had been cycling in the previous year first hit more than 55 million?

Tucson has a population of about 530,000 people. About how many bicyclists lived there in 2014?

Denver and Washington, D.C., each have about 650,000 residents. About how

many more bicyclists were in Washington, D.C., in 2014?

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