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Glossary
Before You Read:

Get Ready!

Wheels make the world go round! But this wasn’t always true. It took early people a long time to invent the wheel. Some say that this first big idea is still our best idea. Is the wheel man’s greatest invention?

Words to Know

Look at the pictures. Then complete the definitions below with the correct words.

chariot gears logs

metal rubber vehicle

1: something that takes people from one place to another, like a bus or a train
2: the body of a ship is made of this
3: a tire is made of this
4: the parts in a car or a bicycle that make the wheels turn slower or faster
5: a type of car from the past that was pulled by horses
6: long, round pieces of a tree
Words to Know

Read the article. Then complete the definitions below with the correct highlighted words.

What is a wheel?

The wheel is a very important invention. It is round and can turn and roll over different kinds of ground, so wheels make transportation easier. Wheeled vehicles like cars, buses, trains, or bikes carry people or things quickly and comfortably. On most vehicles the front wheels turn left and right. This lets the driver steer the vehicle. The power that drives most of these vehicles comes from gas or electricity, but the power that pushes the bicycle comes from your legs!

1. _________________: change the direction of a vehicle
2. _________________: something made for the first time
3. _________________: what our feet walk on
4. _________________: energy
5. _________________: the way people or things are moved from one place to another
6. _________________: move by turning over and over

Look at the diagram. How do you say these words in your language?

tire
spokes
axle
brakes