

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Summed Up Quickly

**Directions:** Read the passage carefully. After each paragraph, pause and think: *What is this paragraph mostly about?* Write **one sentence** that sums up the central idea of that paragraph. When you finish, look back at your answers. Together, do they show the bigger picture of the passage?

### The Story of Bicycles

**Paragraph 1:** Bicycles were first invented in the early 1800s in Europe. The earliest models, sometimes called “running machines,” had no pedals, and riders had to push themselves along with their feet. Although these bikes were simple, they sparked excitement and curiosity about new ways to travel.

**Sum It Up:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph 2:** By the mid-1800s, inventors began adding pedals and chains, which made bicycles easier and faster to ride. These improvements quickly made bikes popular among people who wanted affordable transportation. For many families, owning a bicycle meant they could travel farther without relying on expensive horses or carriages.

**Sum It Up:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph 3:** Today, bicycles are used for far more than just transportation. Some people ride for exercise or fun, while others compete in sports like racing or mountain biking. In cities, bike-sharing programs allow thousands of people to ride without even owning a bike. As concerns about the environment grow, bicycles continue to be seen as a healthy, eco-friendly choice.

**Sum It Up:** \_\_\_\_\_

Looking at all three of your answers together, what is the **overall central idea**?