Make a Bike with Barry!

An Activity to Build Tenacity and Creativity

Materials

1. Two paper cups (3″ diameter bottom)
2. Two straws (one with a bendy part) or pipe cleaners
3. Two coffee stirrers, straw bits, or cotton swabs (for axles)
4. Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
5. Scissors
6. A grown-up with an X-Acto knife
7. Printable bike parts (on this sheet)
8. Disposable water bottle cap (Optional, in place of the printable bike seat)
9. Craft glue, glue sticks, and/or tape

Credit to @Liew Diy for inspiration!

Instructions

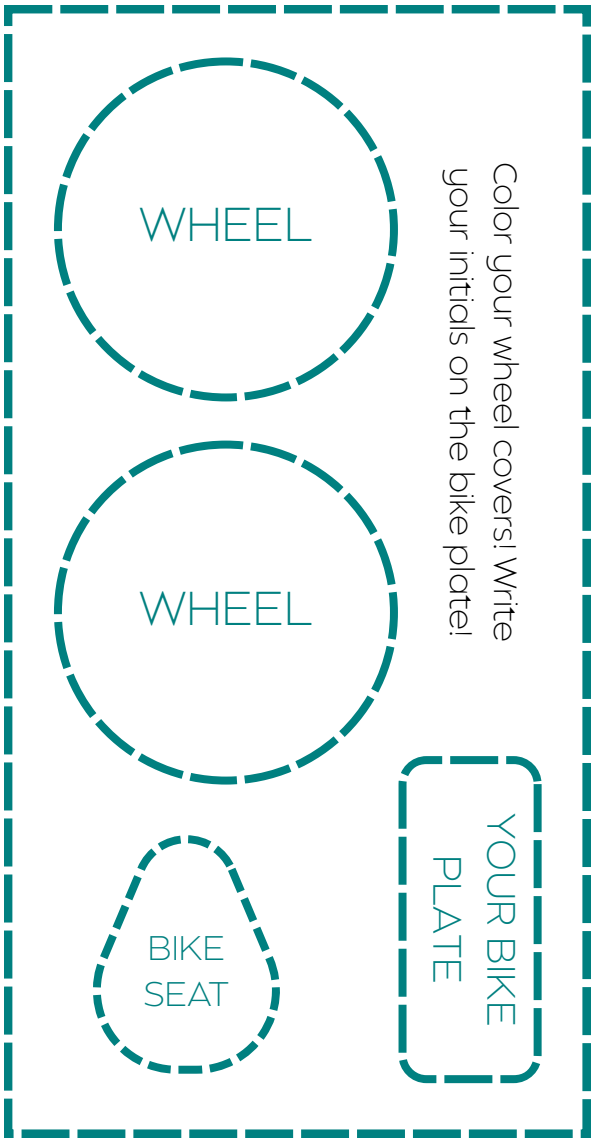
On the next page! (Tip: Don't double side print this page).

Barry's Lesson on Tenacity

Write a short story about tenacity on the lines provided, like the example below.

Barry never gives up, no matter how tricky the path! Just like Barry, you can keep trying and make your dreams roll forward—one pedal at a time.

Design your bike here!



Decorate your bike with the marker and color the printable parts in the space below!

My Tenacity Story

Instructions

Grown-Up Prep (Before You Begin)

Before sharing this activity with kids, an adult should do the following with scissors or an X-Acto knife:

✂️ Cut the bottoms off two paper cups.

🕳️ Carefully poke a small hole in the center of each.

These will become the wheels for the bike!

Step 1: Make the Wheels

- Place your two paper cups open-side up.
- Glue a colored circle onto the bottom of each cup — these become your "wheel covers."
- Optional: decorate the cups with markers or stickers for extra flair!

Step 2: Prepare & Add the Axles

- Before you start: Grown-ups or older kids should remove the fuzzy ends of the cotton swabs or snip them off with scissors. You want a clean, straight stick to use.
- Make two small slits on opposite sides of each cup's open top.
- Carefully insert one trimmed cotton swab straight through each slit — two swabs per cup, crossing like an X. These form your spinning axles.

Step 3: Build the Frame

- Run a long straw (or pipe cleaner) through the crossed axles of both wheels — this becomes your bike's top frame tube.
- Make handlebars with a short bendy straw or pipe cleaner and attach it to the front of the top tube with tape or glue.

Step 4: Add the Seat

- se the printable seat: fold the tab and glue or tape it to the top tube behind the handlebars.
- Or glue a water bottle cap flat-side down onto the frame as a fun "sturdy" seat.

Step 5: Decorate!

- Draw pedals on the ends of your axles (cotton swabs).
- Add tiny bike logos, team numbers, or racing stripes with markers and stickers.
- Let all glue dry completely.

Step 6: Display & Play!

- Set your mini bike on a smooth surface and gently push — if your axles are loose enough, the wheels will spin!