The background of the slide is a light green color with a faint, large-scale image of a bicycle. The bicycle is centered and its wheels are visible, though the details are soft and faded.

Bicycle Education: America Vs. Europe

Clementine Vitek

November 22, 2005

Dr. Berman

Use of Bikes

- **Europeans use bicycles much more than Americans.**
 - **Commuting**
 - **Shopping**
 - **Errands**



Biking to school in the U.S.

- **Parents fear abduction and accidents.**
- **Same chance of accident in a car and on a bike.**
- **Abduction can happen anywhere and usually by someone the child already knows.**

(provelo.org)

- **One out of 10 kids goes to school by some other form of transport than a motor vehicle.**

(Appleyard)

- **Some schools forbid biking to school.**

(Moran)

- **Education is mainly left to parents.**

Education



Children are often told:

“Wear a helmet.”

-Not preventative, just protective.

“Ride on the sidewalks.”

-It is more dangerous than on the roads.

“Keep away from traffic.”

-Impossible to do if the child is to go further than the backyard.

(Oswald)

Misconceptions

A faded green bicycle is visible in the background, serving as a visual context for the text. The bicycle is a standard road bike with a diamond frame, two wheels, handlebars, and a seat.

- Bicycles are toys.
- They are dangerous
- Therefore: used in backyards and parks.

Truth

- Bicycles are vehicles no less than cars.

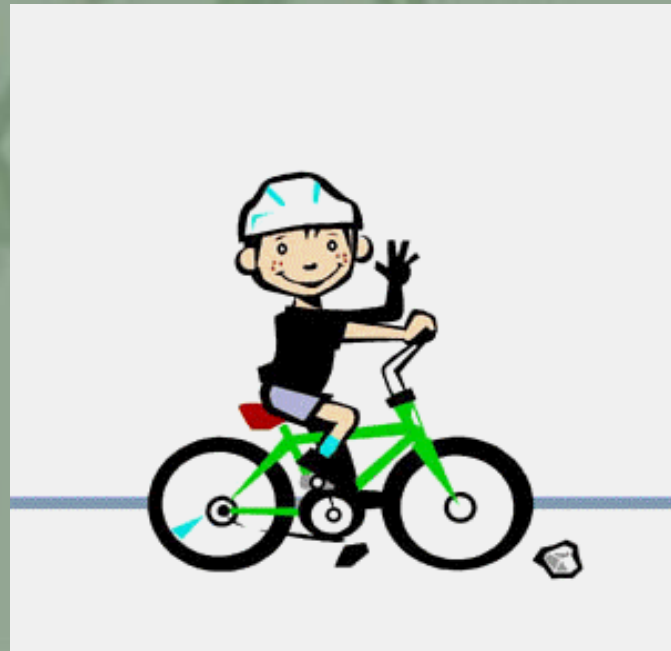
Death and Injuries

- There are more than 600 deaths of bike riders each year in America.
- About 540,000 riders visit the emergency room every year.

(bhsi.org)

- Germans are 3 times less likely to be killed.
- Dutch are 6 times less likely to be killed.

(Bluejay)



Reasons

A faded green bicycle is visible in the background, serving as a visual theme for the slide. The bicycle is positioned centrally and slightly to the right, with its frame, wheels, and handlebars clearly visible against the light green background.

- **Bike paths along roads.**
- **Drivers are more respecting of bikes.**
- **Education of riders.**

-It is easier to blame traffic, drivers and keep children off the road then to educate them.

Education in Germany

A faded, light-colored image of a bicycle is visible in the background of the slide. The bicycle is centered and occupies most of the frame, with its wheels, frame, handlebars, and seat clearly visible. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid on it.

- Bike riding is a taught subject in school.
- Taught for 4 weeks to fourth graders.
- Take an examination in Bike safety at the end.
- Extensively teaches: Road signs, turning, right of way, sharing the road, parts of the bike, etc.
- Taught by both teachers and professionals.

In the Classroom

- Take notes
- Watch videos



Handwritten notes on a grid-lined notebook page, featuring various hand-drawn diagrams and text in German.

Left Page:

- 1. stop and go light
- 2. Bruch
- 3. Das Experiment ist ständig gefährlich
- 4. Gefahrstoffe
- 5. Lärm
- 6.
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- 15. Einfahr-Sperrung
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Right Page:

Thema: Verkehrsschilder mit dem Fachlehrer

Thema: Infektionsschutz

1) Schilderarten

- Schilder sind in 3 Gruppen unterteilt
- 1. Gruppe: in der Richtung auf die Straße hin
- 2. Gruppe: in der Richtung auf die Straße zu
- 3. Gruppe: in der Richtung auf die Straße zu

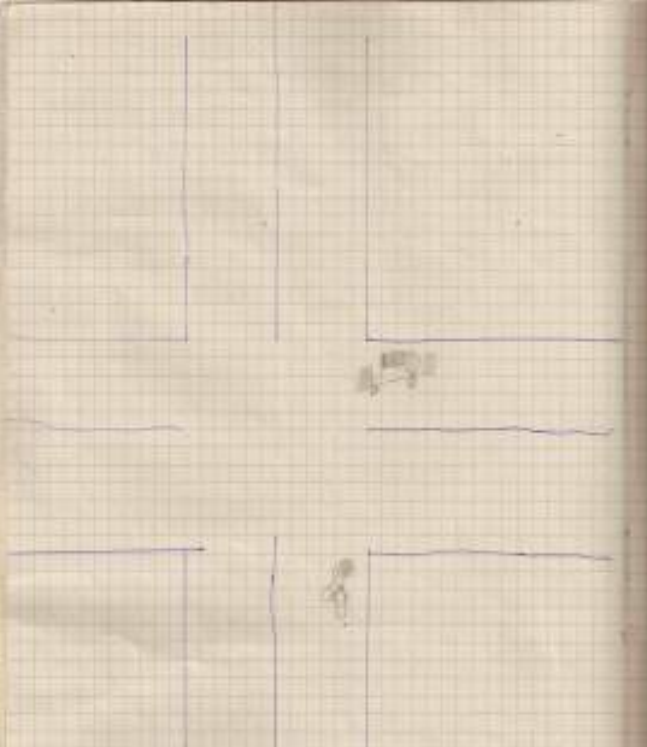
Lösung

Verkehrsschilder: "Wer nach kommt hat Vorfahrt"

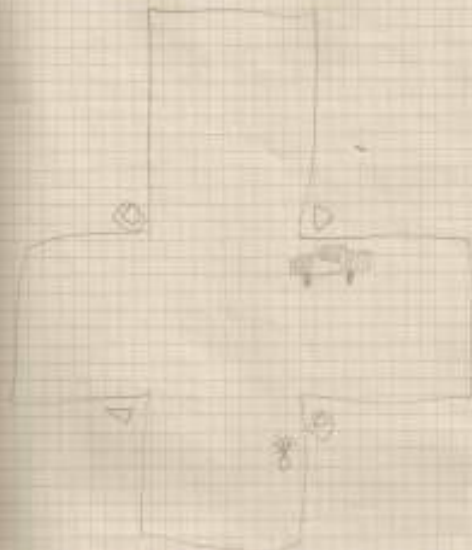
Erklärung: Wenn eine Straße in eine andere einmündet.

Verkehrsschilder

Wenn zwei Straßen die Form eines Kreuzes haben.



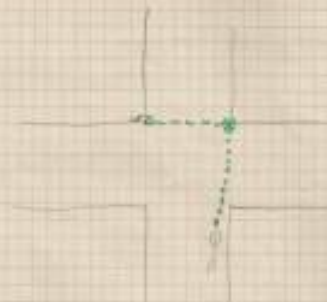
Vorfahrt hat das Auto, weil es von rechts kommt



Vorfahrt hat der Insassent weil es auf den Vorfahrts
Zeichen folgt



fahrzeug muss anhalten und Vorfahrt gewähren.



Leuchtbalken um gefährlichen Situationen, Straßenschilder

ausfahren
halten
anhalten bzw. fahren
Stopp, Anhalten!



Stopp, Anhalten
auf das rote Licht
achten!



Grün, das Zeichen ist freigegeben!

gelb, auf das rote Licht achten, wenn
Anweisung kommt

Stopp



Practical Use

- Go to Traffic Playgrounds.
- Provides all necessary equipment.
- Not only educational but fun.

(Kwg)



Traffic Parks

- All over Europe.
- Some use different modes, but they all accomplish the same thing- Teaching traffic rules.



Other forms of Education

- Interactive games online:

[College radio - Faflitz: Bicycle examination on-line](#)

Pictures of road signs in Pencil cases.



STUNDENPLAN					
Montag	Dienstag	Mittwoch	Donnerstag	Freitag	Sonntag




Education in the Netherlands



- An organization provides all schools with necessary information and instructions to teach children bicycling.
- Children study traffic signs and rules.
- Have their bikes inspected.
- Take a “driver’s test.”

(Hermans)

Example of Bike Inspection Test

Is de fiets in orde?/Is the bike good			
1 ste trim.	2de trim.	3de trim.	
JA	JA	JA	
0	0	0	de bel/the bell
0	0	0	de witte reflector vooraan/ white reflector front
0	0	0	de voorrem / for-frond brake
0	0	0	de achterrem/Back brake
0	0	0	het witte fietslicht vooraan/ white light front
0	0	0	de reflectoren in de trappers/ reflectors in the staircase press- pedals
0	0	0	de rode reflector achteraan// red reflector back
0	0	0	de spaakreflectoren , 2 per wiel/2 wheel reflectors
0	0	0	en/of de lichtweerkaatsende banden
0	0	0	het rode fietslicht achteraan/red light back

Bike Pooling

- Some schools have a bike pool system (fietspoolen).
- Organizes a group of kids to go to school on bikes together with an experienced rider.
- Wear bright vests and helmets.



Benefits

- Safe
- Teaches children proper riding skills.

(west-vlaanderen.be)



There are programs in the U.S.

- Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition
 - BikeSmart
 - Instructors give a 45min-1 hour presentations to assemblies. (Free)
 - Can help the school set up a safety fair.

(Vtbikeped)



Lack of time spent on education



- Santa Cruz County Community Traffic Safety Coalition.
- Gives a 25 minute pedestrian program for grades K-2.
- Gives a 40 minute bicycle program for grades 3-5.

(ci.santa-cruz.ca)

North Carolina Department of Transportation Bicycle Program

- Made a program which consists of:
 - seven 40 minute class periods
 - 2 in class, 5 hands on biking



Negatives:

School has to provide everything.
Teachers have to plan it into
curriculum and learn it themselves.

(ces.ncsu.edu)



Florida Traffic & Bicycle Safety Education Program



- Educates teachers and school officials.
 - School will not need to hire outside professionals.

Funded by the Florida Department of
Transportation.

Goal: Educate 3 schools a year.

Other Devices:

- **Safe route to school programs.**
 - helps design the surrounding area of the school to be more pedestrian friendly and is modeled after Canadian and European planning.
- **Example: has been done in The Bronx.**

Negative:

- **Encourages biking, but does not educate about biking.**

Conclusion

- Bicycle education is not mandatory in American schools, and therefore they don't bother with it.
- Proper education of children would lead to more bicycle usage and safer riding.
- Drivers would have more respect for bikes.



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