

John B. Dunlop from Belfast invented the air-filled rubber tyre. This was at the end of the 19th century. His invention made cycling more comfortable.

John B. Dunlop works as a vet. He lives in Ireland. He is interested in practical problems. His son likes football and bicycles. The little boy's new bicycle has solid rubber tyres. They are better than the old-fashioned metal rings.

But whenever the boy's bike hits a stone or a hole in the ground, he suffers a very hard bump, and that makes him cry.

The boy's football is made of leather and its inside is an air-filled rubber balloon. This gives John B. Dunlop the idea of an inner tube, inside the tyre, which would be filled with air.



John B. Dunlop cuts up an old garden hose, glues the ends together. He fits it to the rear wheel. Then he takes his son's football pump and fills the rubber tube with air. This new kind of tyre absorbs the bumps. The son is happy. The father is proud of his work. The people are interested in Dunlop's invention.

Dunlop owns a little factory. In 1889 there is a cycle race in Belfast. A bicycle with John B. Dunlop's pneumatic tyres wins. But his invention doesn't make him a rich man. He sells the Dunlop Rubber Company with his patent. This is just before the bicycle boom. In 1900 the company starts production of tyres for motorcars.

Today Goodyear-Dunlop is a worldwide company.

Odd one out:

teacher	vet	tyre	mechanic	taxi-driver
leather	rubber	iron	stone	wheel
century	invention	year	day	hour
bicycle	motorbike	car	garage	bus
England	Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Spain
idea	project	invention	plan	tube
company	factory	firm	wellness	business
old-fashioned	comfortable	easy	cosy	secure
sell	give away	deliver	win	trade
worldwide	practical	global	international	important
race	tube	competition	contest	run
suffer	feel pain	hurt	ache	proud

Answer the questions:

Where was John Dunlop from? ... *From Belfast in Ireland.*

What did he invent?

Did Dunlop's son like biking?

What was Dunlop's job?

Did the new tyres make the bikes faster?