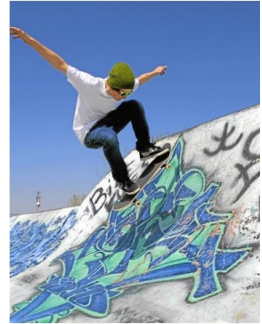


The history of skateboarding

Skateboarding is a very popular sport all over the world.

Did you know it was invented in California?

Find out more about its history, famous skaters¹ and cool tricks.



E In the 80s and 90s more tricks were invented, skateboarding videos were popular and skaters like Tony Hawk and Rodney Mullen became famous. The first X Games, an extreme sports event, took place in 1995. Since then, skateboarding has been a popular sport all over the world and there are more pro² skaters.

C But everything changed when a new kind of wheel was invented in 1972. The wheels were made of urethane³ and made skateboarding a lot easier and smoother⁴.

A By 1965 most people had lost interest⁵ in skateboarding. It seemed⁶ like the trend was over ...

D Surfers in California had the idea to 'surf' concrete⁹ in the 1950s. They took wooden¹⁰ boards and put roller skate wheels¹¹ on the bottom¹² – skateboarding was born. It was the perfect activity for when there were no waves and they couldn't surf.

B The Z-Boys¹⁴ had many great skaters. Some of the most famous ones were Tony Alva, Jay Adams, Peggy Oki and Stacy Peralta. In 1978, Alan Gelfand, who had the nickname¹³ Ollie, did a trick on his skateboard. The team loved the trick and named it after him. The ollie is still a popular skateboard trick today.

G This new sport became popular very quickly and by 1963 it was a big trend. The first competitions had the categories⁷ 'Downhill'⁸, 'Slalom' and 'Freestyle'.

F Skateboarding was back. Shortly after the new wheels were invented, surfers from Venice and Santa Monica in California started the Zephyr team¹⁴, also called the Z-Boys. When a drought¹⁵ hit California in the mid-70s, people had to empty¹⁶ their swimming pools. That's when the Z-Boys started to skate in empty pools and skateboarding went to a new level¹⁷. This was how people got the idea to build half pipes.

1. Read the texts and complete the time line.

TODAY



2. Do you have a skateboard? Do you like this sport? Why? Why not? Would you like to try skateboarding? Talk to two people from your class on your phone, Facetime, Skype, WhatsApp, etc. Then write a short text: Example: I talked to ... and ... on the phone. I have a skateboard and ... has a skateboard, too. We like the sport because ... But ...

¹ skater – Skater/in; ² pro(fessional) – professionell, Profi-; ³ urethane – Kunststoff, Kunstharz; ⁴ smooth – glatt, geschmeidig, reibungslos; ⁵ interest – Interesse; ⁶ to seem – (er)scheinen; ⁷ category – Kategorie; ⁸ downhill – bergab; ⁹ concrete – Beton;

¹⁰ wooden – aus Holz; ¹¹ roller skate wheels – Rollen von Rollschuhen; ¹² bottom – unterer Teil, Boden; ¹³ nickname – Spitzname;

¹⁴ Zephyr team (Z-Boys) – ein Skater- und Surferteam, das von dem Surfgeschäft Zephyr gegründet wurde; ¹⁵ drought – Dürre, Trockenheit; ¹⁶ to empty – (aus)leeren; ¹⁷ level – Niveau, Level, Ebene