



## *Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (with a Few Flat Tires Along the Way)*

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### **Book Description**

*High School | Nonfiction*

Through vintage photographs, cartoons, advertisements, and songs, *Wheels of Change* provides readers the history of how the bicycle transformed women's lives.

"Let me tell you what I think of bicycling," abolitionist and suffragist leader Susan B. Anthony said in 1896. "I think it has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. It gives women a feeling of freedom and self-reliance. I stand and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel... the picture of free, untrammelled womanhood."

### **Discussion Questions**

- The bicycle brought about a change in women's fashions, inspired new songs, and gave women independence and a sense of freedom that propelled the women's suffrage movement forward. Why do you think this was so?
- What modern-day inventions do you see being used to provide more resources and accessibility to marginalized groups?

### **Utah and National Connections**

A man riding across the country on a bicycle passed through Utah in 1884. Utah's Ute Indians first saw a bicycle in 1892 when a man from New York got lost on reservation lands. The Utes called the bike an "iron pony." They thought it was part of a scheme to compete with and cheat them out of their beloved horses.



*An unidentified woman with a bicycle is shown with members of the first Utah State Legislature on the steps of the City and County Building in 1896. Courtesy of Utah State Historical Society*