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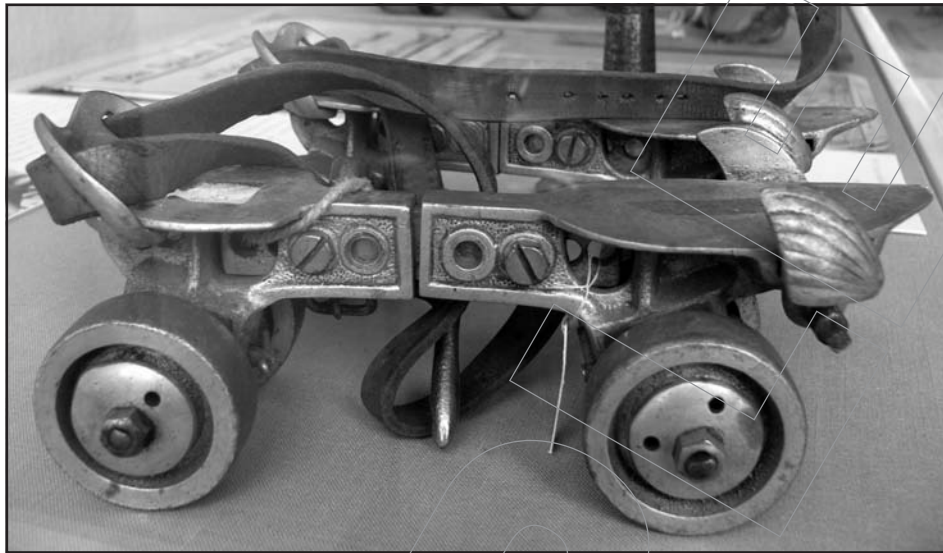
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This is a story about a toy that can help you get places—fast.



## Roll On!

Is walking too slow for you? Then you probably need roller skates. Roller skates let you get where you want to go—fast!

You might be surprised to know that roller skates have been around for more than 300 years. The first known roller skates came from Holland. A man nailed wooden spools to long pieces of wood. He put them on his shoes. They were called “Skeelers.” Another early skate had a wooden sole attached to a boot. There were two or four wheels. The wheels were made of copper, wood, or ivory. The wheels were put in a straight line.

An American made a different kind of skate. The skate had four wheels. Two wheels were in the front of the foot. Two wheels were under the heel. The wheels were made of wood. These skates let people make turns. They could skate backwards, too.

People really liked these skates. So skating rinks were built around the country. Then people could skate indoors. The indoor skates had wooden wheels. There were outdoor rinks, too. Outdoor skates had metal wheels.

Today's most popular skates were like the early "Skeelers." They are called inline skates. The skate has a boot for your foot. There are three, four, or five wheels in a straight line on the bottom. You can go very fast on inline skates.

People like to do fancy spins and tricks on their skates. Some people even like to dance on skates. After many, many years, roller skates are still popular. So grab your skates and roll on!





# Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the story that you just read. Read each one. Then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you are not sure, go back and look at the story again.

1. Where were the first skates made?

- (A) Denmark
- (B) Holland
- (C) United States
- (D) Canada

Factual

2. How were the early skates like roller skates today?

- (A) They had wheels in a straight line.
- (B) They had four wheels.
- (C) They were made of wood.
- (D) They were made for children.

Inference

3. How were the first American skates different from earlier skates?

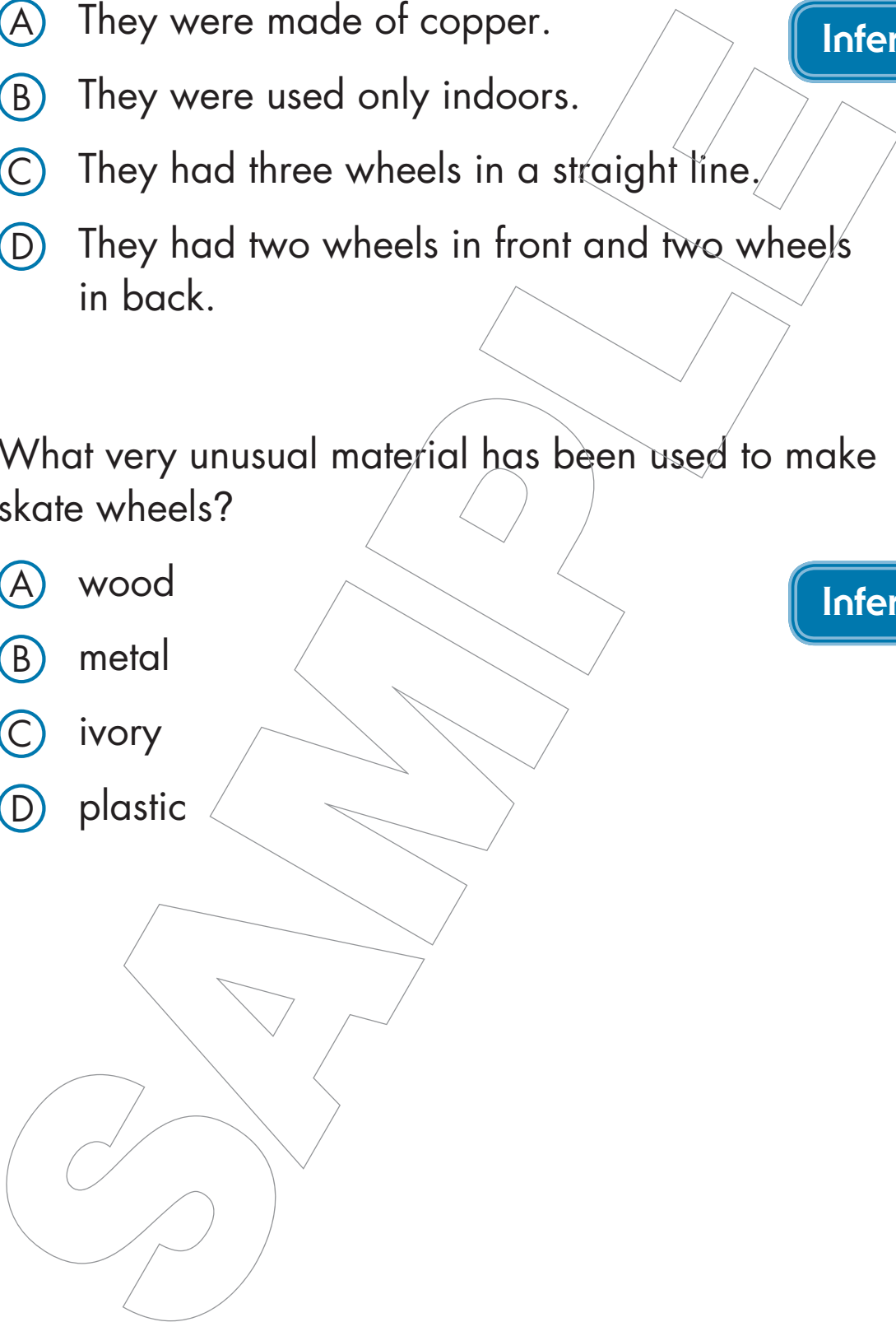
- (A) They were made of copper.
- (B) They were used only indoors.
- (C) They had three wheels in a straight line.
- (D) They had two wheels in front and two wheels in back.

Inference

4. What very unusual material has been used to make skate wheels?

- (A) wood
- (B) metal
- (C) ivory
- (D) plastic

Inference



5. How do you keep inline skates on your feet?

- (A) The wheels are on a boot.
- (B) Straps hold the wheels on your shoe.
- (C) The wheels clamp on your shoes.
- (D) Your shoe sits on a wood sole.

Factual

6. What new trick could people do with the first American skates?

- (A) They could go very fast.
- (B) They could skate backwards.
- (C) They could skate on sidewalks.
- (D) They could skate down hills.

Inference



# Summing It Up



Roller skates have been around for over 300 years. They have changed through the years. But they have always helped people get places quickly.



Fill in the boxes below to show how roller skates have changed. Some ideas have already been written for you.

Roller Skates	What were they like?
Skeelers	Wood strip on shoe Wooden spools for wheels



# Write About It

How would you describe roller skates to a friend? It helps if you can show them a picture. Draw a picture of one of the roller skates in the story. Then write several lines telling about the skates.



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