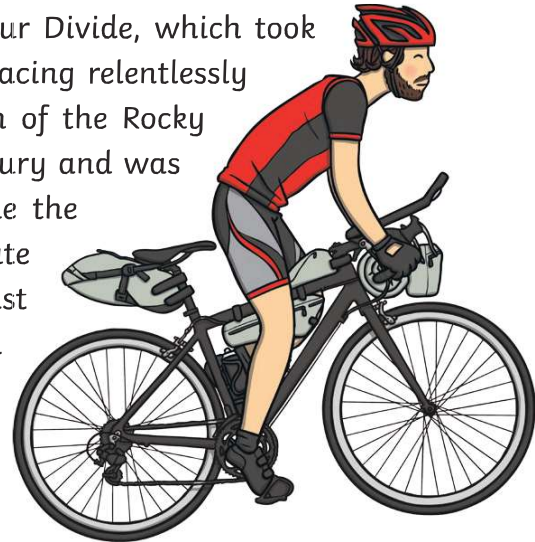


Mike Hall

A lot of people enjoy riding their bike for a bit of exercise or peace. There are some people who take this to an almost superhuman level and one of these phenomenal athletes was Mike Hall. Mike was born on 4th March 1981 in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. He began to compete in long distance races - over 24 hours - when he was about 28 years old. He soon made the step up to ultra-distance racing. These races cover unbelievable distances, countless miles and span entire continents. Only a select group of riders could even begin to compete in these races and Mike was one of the best.

Mike's first ultra-distance race was the Tour Divide, which took him from Canada to the Mexican border, racing relentlessly through the USA. He raced the full length of the Rocky Mountains whilst suffering from a knee injury and was still able to complete the race just outside the top ten. He would later go on to dominate the event, winning the race twice, whilst setting course records, which still stand today. Mike was a force in ultra-distance racing, often finishing in first place! He won the Trans AM Race, which runs from the west coast of America to the East, for approximately 4200 miles. Mike completed this race in an astonishing 17 days and 16 hours. No one has ever completed the race in a faster time! Mike starred in a documentary about the race called *Inspired to Ride*, which followed him throughout the competition. After finishing 11th in his first ultra-distance race, Mike won every other major race he took part in!



He was also a keen race organiser and passionate fundraiser. He was the main organiser of the Transcontinental Race, which takes place in Europe. Riders travel from the UK, calling in at a number of predetermined landmarks throughout the continent as they race to the border of Europe and Asia in Turkey. The race takes place over a distance of approximately 4200km. The first race took place in 2013 with 30 competitors, whereas the most recent race had over 1000



applicants for only 350 race places. Throughout his racing career, he raised thousands of pounds for a charity supporting newborn children in Vietnam, Asia.

Mike competed in self-supporting, ultra-distance races, which means that he was on his own and had to carry everything he needed on his bike. Given that some of his races could last almost 100 days, this was a challenge. He rode a carbon fibre bike which was very strong but importantly, light. Tools and materials such as puncture repair kits were essential. He would need to carry vitamins to help him stay in top condition throughout the race and water purification tablets as he would have to find his own water to keep hydrated. He could ingeniously use the power he generated whilst riding to charge his phone and GPS (Global Positioning System).



Sadly, Mike Hall was killed in a collision with a car whilst competing in the Indian Pacific Wheel Race in Australia in March 2017. Mike had almost completed the race and was in 2nd place. The race was cancelled following this tragic incident. The race organisers paid tribute to Mike, saying that he would leave 'an incredible legacy' and he was described by fellow riders as 'a shining light'.

Questions

1. What kind of racing did Mike start doing after he was 28 years old?

2. What position did Mike finish in his first Tour Divide Race?

15th place 20th place 11th place 9th place

3. **Find** and **copy** a word from the 2nd paragraph that means never stopping?

4. What was the name of the documentary Mike starred in?

5. Tick True or False for the following statements.

	True	False
The Trans AM Race is about 4200 miles long.		
Mike was the first winner of the Transcontinental Race.		
Mike had a team to help him when he was racing.		
Mike holds the record for the Trans AM Race.		

6. Why was it important that Mike's bike was strong and light?

Strong:

Light:

7. How many people competed in the first Transcontinental Race?

8. Mike Hall was one of the greatest ultra-distance riders.

Find two pieces of evidence to support this statement.

9. Match the equipment to its job.

	to keep healthy through the race
	to mend flat tyres
	to make water safe to drink
	to help with directions

purification tablets	GPS	vitamins	puncture repair kit
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10. Why was it important for the organisers to cancel the Indian Pacific Wheel Race?
