

Peddalling Around The World

What's the farthest distance you've ever ridden your bike? Was it 10, 15, or maybe 20 miles? If you think that's far, try keeping up with Steven Smith and Jason Lewis. The pair are currently on a 29,000-mile trip. They are using bikes, in-line skates, a kayak, and a special pedal-powered boat. The trip will take them around the world.

The name of the four-year adventure is Pedal for the Planet. The goal is to get people to think about new ways to protect Earth. For example, by using human-powered vehicles, people won't need cars. That will lead to less pollution, Smith says.

"We want to show that human-powered travel is easy to do and is better for Earth," Smith adds.



Rolling along: Steven Smith, left, and Jason Lewis, right, starting out on the U.S. portion of their journey.

Geo News

Spreading the Word

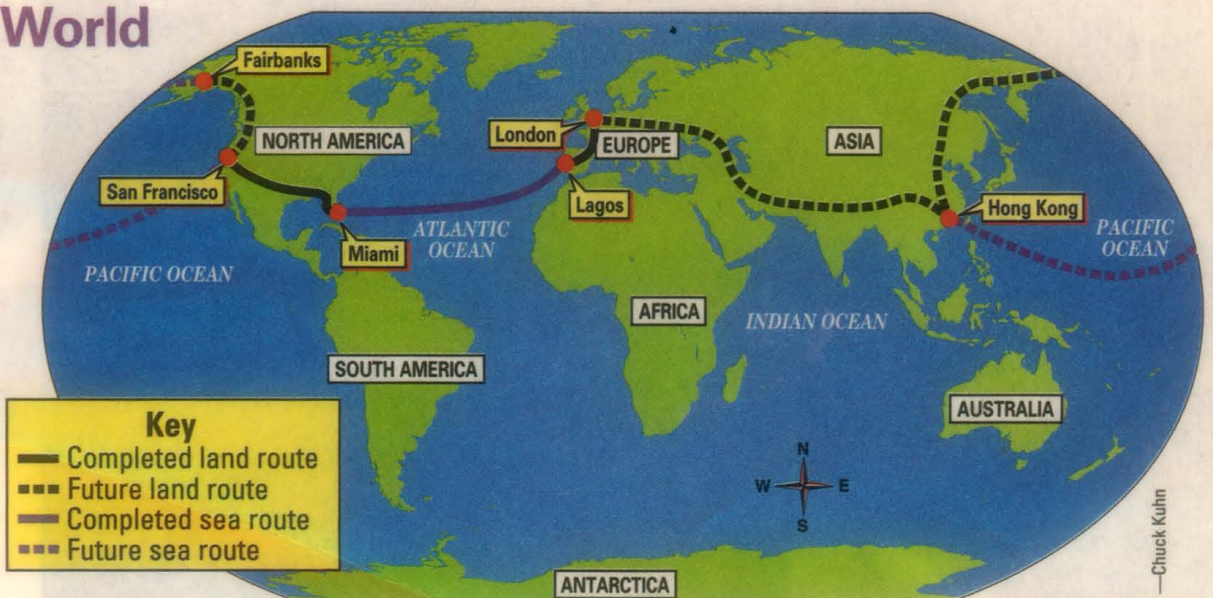
To let people know about Pedal for the Planet, Smith and Lewis have been visiting schools around the world.

One of the stories they tell kids is about crossing the Atlantic Ocean in a pedal-powered boat in 111 days. One night, the two felt a bumping against the boat. When the two looked over the side, they were inches from a whale that was curious about the little boat.

CRITICAL THINKING Could human-powered vehicles ever replace gas-powered vehicles? Why or why not?

Around the World With Pedal Power

This map shows the portions of the trip that Steven Smith and Jason Lewis have completed so far. It also shows the portions of the trip that they hope to complete by June 1998.



—Eliot Schechter/Silver Image

—Chuck Kuhn