

1 Which word does not belong?

- | | | | | |
|---|------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | revs | spikes | suspension | Formula 1 |
| 2 | racket | penny farthing | carbon fibre | recumbent |
| 3 | atmosphere | Apollo | Voyager | Super Bowl |
| 4 | sleigh | freestyle | backstroke | breaststroke |
| 5 | friction | skis | pitch | snow |

2 Choose a, b or c to complete the sentences.

- 1 People invented ___ to run the first steam trains.
a steam power b nuclear power c jet power
- 2 The engines of motor racing cars turn at 18,000 ___ per minute.
a km b revs c seconds
- 3 The *SS United States* was a ___ that set a record for crossing the Atlantic in 1952.
a liner b spacecraft c Concorde jet
- 4 The British sailor Francis Chichester was the first to sail ___ round the world.
a a solo flight b passengers c solo
- 5 The free-falling pilot Joseph Kittinger was the fastest human to travel through the _____.
a snow b atmosphere c F1

3 Choose one of the record-breaking sports people in *The Fastest*. Find out more about him or her. Write about him or her for a school newspaper.

4 Draw a line to complete the sentences.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Ships sailed across the seas powered by | a | less wind resistance. |
| 2 | The motor car was powered by | b | powered flight in 1903. |
| 3 | Ken Warby set a world water speed record in a | c | an internal combustion engine. |
| 4 | A 1970s' bicycle was designed so there was | d | wind. |
| 5 | The Wright brothers made the first successful | e | jet-powered hydroplane. |

5 Number the sentences 1–5 (1 = slowest; 5 = fastest).

- ___ The cyclist Chris Boardman won a gold medal at a top speed of 52km/h.
- ___ *Helios 2* flew at 252,792km/h and reached the sun in three months.
- ___ Joseph Kittinger fell at a speed of 988km/h before opening his parachute.
- ___ Cricketer Shoaib Akhtar bowled a ball at 161.3km/h.
- ___ Tennis player Venus Williams served a ball at 208km/h.

6 Read the sentences. Write T (true) or F (false).

- 1 The cheetah can run at 2,140km/h. _____
- 2 The peregrine falcon is the fastest bird in the world. _____
- 3 The sailfish uses its fin to fly at 110km/h. _____
- 4 Scientists study dinosaur tracks and footprints to work out how fast they moved. _____
- 5 The fastest growing plant in the world is the Venus flytrap. _____

7 Complete the sentences by combining two words in the box.

man	super	made	fastest	record	growing
	selling	breaking	fastest	fast	

- The fastest _____ object in space was *Helios 2*.
- Amy Williams won a gold medal in a _____ 53.68 seconds.
- Compsognathus* was a _____ dinosaur.
- The _____ book is in the *Harry Potter* series.
- Guangzhou, Karachi and Delhi are the _____ cities in the world.

8 Complete the sentences with the superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.

- The _____ (hard) part of an F1 race is overtaking.
- The penny farthing was one of the _____ (early) bicycles.
- Ian Thorpe became the _____ (young) ever swimming world champion in 1998.
- The _____ (fast) killer in the plant world is the Venus flytrap.
- Lloyd Scott set a world record for the _____ (slow) marathon in 2003.

9 Complete the table with the words in the box.

the air	5,500 metres	Earth	444km/h	1964	the atmosphere
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in	on	through	at
1 _____	land	3 _____	5 _____
11 seconds	water	4 _____	24.758 seconds
two hours	2 _____	space	6 _____