

School to Home

LESSON 2

Speed and Velocity

Directions: Use your textbook to answer each question or respond to each statement.

1. Speed is a measure of the distance an object travels in a unit of time.

What is the difference between constant speed and instantaneous speed?

2. Average speed is the total distance traveled divided by the total time taken to travel that distance.

Find the average speed of a marble that takes 6 seconds to roll 30 m across a gymnasium floor.

3. Distance-time graphs show the way the distance an object travels changes over time.

A distance-time graph shows the motion of two bicycle riders. Each rider's motion is represented on the graph by a diagonal line sloping upward from left to right. The graph shows that they traveled the same distance. However, the line representing the motion of Rider #1 slopes upward more steeply than the line representing the motion of Rider #2. What can you conclude about the speed of the two riders? Which rider arrived at his or her destination first?

4. Speed does not describe motion completely.

What is velocity, and how does it differ from speed?

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