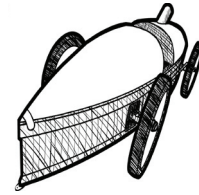


Identifying the main idea and supporting details

Instructions: Read the passage. Then complete the activity that follows.



Pedal to the metal: a history of cars and speed

- 1 People have been racing cars ever since the automobile was invented. In the beginning, there were no special racing cars. Ordinary road cars were used for racing.
- 2 Sponsored car racing in the United States began in 1895. A newspaper organised the first road race. The newspaper was the *Chicago Times-Herald*. The course went from Chicago to Evanston, Illinois. A Duryea car won the race. It was going an average of 5 kilometres per hour! Road races like this one were a common type of early car race. Drivers travelled on rough roads. They wanted to see whose car could get from place to place the fastest.
- 3 In 1906, a Stanley Steamer model set a new land-speed record of 127.66 miles (80 kilometres) per hour. It was called the Rocket. In 1907, the Stanley brothers raced an even faster model. It reached over 240 kilometres per hour and broke apart. The driver went to the hospital, and the Stanley brothers gave up racing.
- 4 For some car makers, winning a race was a form of advertising. William Durant had this idea in mind when he started the Chevrolet Motor Company. Durant hired a famous Swiss race car driver, Louis Chevrolet, to design his cars.
- 5 In the United States, closed-course racing on an oval track became popular. The famous track in Indianapolis, home of the Indy 500, was built in 1909. In 1911, the first 500-mile race was won there at an average speed of 74.59 miles (120 kilometres) per hour.
- 6 As car racing became more popular around the world, the design of racing cars became highly specialized. Today, there are three basic types of race car. Formula One (F1) cars are single-seat cars that must meet specific standards in design and safety. They zoom around Grand Prix courses that have long straights and sharp hairpin turns. F1 cars can reach speeds of more than 320 kilometres per hour.
- 7 Indy cars are similar in design to F1 cars, with open cockpits and rear-mounted engines. They are slower and heavier than F1 cars and more suited for oval track racing.
- 8 In contrast, stock cars look more like typical road cars. Under the chassis, though, stock cars are built for speed. These fast cars aren't the holders of the land-speed record. To set a land-speed record today, a car does not usually follow strict racing-design rules. Records are set on long runs at places such as the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. The cars look more like rockets, and their turbine engines are similar to a jet engine.

Instructions: Refer to the passage to match the main ideas and paragraphs. Write the appropriate paragraph number on each blank line. Then, identify the main idea for the entire passage. Use your own words.

Main idea: Paragraph number _____

The Stanley brothers set a land-speed record in 1906 and continued to reach faster speeds until giving up the sport due to injuries from a crash.

Main idea: Paragraph number _____

Winning races meant advertising for car makers like Chevrolet Motor Company, which hired drivers to design its cars.

Main idea: Paragraph number _____

The land-speed records of today are set on long runs by cars with turbine engines that, unlike the specialized race cars, don't have to follow strict racing-design rules.

Main idea: Paragraph number _____

Formula One (F1) is one of three types of specialised racing car. These single-seat cars race on Grand Prix courses at speeds sometimes exceeding 320 kilometres per hour.

Main idea: Paragraph number _____

Closed-course racing on an oval track became very popular, with the most famous race being the 500-mile Indy 500.

Main idea: Paragraph number _____

Sponsored road racing started in 1895 and involved ordinary cars travelling from place to place to see which driver could get there the fastest.

Main idea of the story

Instructions: Refer to the passage to match the main ideas and paragraphs. Write the appropriate paragraph number on each blank line. Then, identify the main idea for the entire passage. Use your own words.

Main idea: Paragraph number 3

The Stanley brothers set a land-speed record in 1906 and continued to reach faster speeds until giving up the sport due to injuries from a crash.

Main idea: Paragraph number 4

Winning races meant advertising for car makers like Chevrolet Motor Company, which hired drivers to design its cars.

Main idea: Paragraph number 9

The land-speed records of today are set on long runs by cars with turbine engines that, unlike the specialized race cars, don't have to follow strict racing-design rules.

Main idea: Paragraph number 6

Formula One (F1) is one of three types of specialised racing car. These single-seat cars race on Grand Prix courses at speeds sometimes exceeding 320 kilometres per hour.

Main idea: Paragraph number 5

Closed-course racing on an oval track became very popular, with the most famous race being the 500-mile Indy 500.

Main idea: Paragraph number 2

Sponsored road racing started in 1895 and involved ordinary cars travelling from place to place to see which driver could get there the fastest.

Main idea of the story

Answers will vary. Car racing is as old as the automobile. Early racing involved travelling from city to city in just ordinary cars on regular roads. As cars became faster, records were set and it became big business. Closed-course racing on oval tracks became popular. Racing car became highly specialised and were build for different types of racing.