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Basic Physics: Using a Video to Find Speeds

Formulas: $\quad$ time $=\frac{\text { Number of Frames }}{\text { Frame Rate }} \quad$ Velocity $=\frac{\text { distance }}{\text { time }}$
Speed in $m p h=($ Speed in $m / s) \times 2.24$

How to find the speed of an object in meters per second and miles per hour...

Step 1: Find a video of a moving object.
Step 2: Watch the video and find a spot where the object travels a distance that you can measure or estimate. Write down the distance, in meters.

Step 3: Advance the video one frame at a time, and count the number of frames that it takes for the object to travel the distance that you recorded. Write down the number of frames.

Step 4: Find the frame rate of the video. For most normal videos, the frame rate is 30 fps ( 30 frames per second). This means the video camera takes 30 pictures every second. An iPhone slow motion video has 240 fps. Write down the frame rate.

Step 5: Use the time formula, above, to calculate the amount of time it took the object to move that distance. Write down the time, in seconds.

Step 6: Use the velocity formula to calculate the speed. Write down the speed, in meters per second.
Step 7 (last step!): Use the "speed in mph " formula to convert the $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{s}$ speed to mph . Write the speed in mph .

Practice:

1. Object Description:

Measure or estimate the distance traveled, in meters. $\mathbf{d}=$ $\qquad$ m

Count the number of frames for the object to travel this distance. \# of frames = $\qquad$ frames

Find the video frame rate. Frame rate = $\qquad$ fps

Calculate the time for object to travel this distance.

Time $=$ $\qquad$ s

Calculate the object's velocity, in meters per second.

Speed $=$ $\qquad$ $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{s}$

Convert the object's speed to mph.

Speed $=$ $\qquad$ mph
2. Object Description:

Measure or estimate the distance traveled, in meters. $\mathbf{d}=$ $\qquad$ m

Count the number of frames for the object to travel this distance. \# of frames = $\qquad$ frames

Find the video frame rate. Frame rate $=$ $\qquad$ fps

Calculate the time for object to travel this distance.
Time $=$ $\qquad$ s

Calculate the object's velocity, in meters per second.
Speed $=$ $\qquad$ $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{s}$

Convert the object's speed to mph.

Speed = $\qquad$ mph
3. Object Description:

Measure or estimate the distance traveled, in meters. $\mathbf{d}=$ $\qquad$ m

Count the number of frames for the object to travel this distance. \# of frames = $\qquad$ frames

Find the video frame rate. Frame rate = $\qquad$ fps

Calculate the time for object to travel this distance.
Time $=$ $\qquad$ $s$

Calculate the object's velocity, in meters per second.
Speed = $\qquad$ $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{s}$

Convert the object's speed to mph.
Speed = $\qquad$ mph

