Record Breakers
The Fastest

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.
Draw a line to complete the sentences.

1. Ships sailed across the seas powered by
2. The motor car was powered by
3. Ken Warby set a world water speed record in a
4. A 1970s’ bicycle was designed so there was
5. The Wright brothers made the first successful

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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>man</th>
<th>super</th>
<th>made</th>
<th>fastest</th>
<th>record</th>
<th>growing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>selling</td>
<td>breaking</td>
<td>fastest</td>
<td>fastest</td>
<td>fast</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

9 Complete the table with the words in the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>the air</th>
<th>5,500 metres</th>
<th>Earth</th>
<th>444km/h</th>
<th>1964</th>
<th>the atmosphere</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>through</td>
<td>at</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ____________ land</td>
<td>3 ____________</td>
<td>5 ____________</td>
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<td>11 seconds</td>
<td>water</td>
<td>4 ____________</td>
<td>24.758 seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td>two hours</td>
<td>2 ____________ space</td>
<td>6 ____________</td>
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