Alabama Public Television Education

The Fastest Man on Earth

"A lifetime of training for just ten seconds" Jesse Owens

Jesse Owens won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics. He was the world record holder in the men's 100-meter dash and his record of 10.3 seconds was not broken for more than 80 years. In 1936, when Jesse Owens broke the world record, he could run 21.7 miles per hour. During the 2009 world championships, a runner from Jamaica, Usain Bolt, ran the 100-meter dash in 9.572. Bolt could run 28 miles per hour.

Show What You Know

Directions: Using the information from the paragraph above, create a bar graph that compares Jesse Owens' 100-meter-dash record and Usain Bolt's 100-meter-dash record.

You may use this worksheet to create a bar graph that will show the difference between Jesse Owens' race time and Usain Bolt's race time.

- Jesse Owens ran the 100-meter dash in _____ minutes and _____seconds.
- Usain Bolt ran the 100-meter dash in _____ minutes and _____seconds.
- How many seconds are in a minute? _____
- Remember to place a 0 on the bottom of the vertical axis and to think carefully about how to count on your scale. How will you identify minutes and seconds? Will you use 5, 10, 15, 20, etc. as your scale numbers for seconds?

- Be sure to label your vertical and your horizontal axis.

Think About It

- Using Flipgrid or an exit slip
    - Discuss three things that might affect the time of a runner.
    - Identify the “fastest” man for the 100-meter dash and discuss some possible barriers that might affect the time of a runner.

Bar Graph

