

## ROAD TRIP

A calculating speed activity

Speed is a measure of how fast something moves, or the distance it moves, in a given amount of time. Speed is calculated by taking the distance traveled and dividing it by time.

$$\text{Speed} = \text{Distance} / \text{Time}$$

Speed is not constant. (Think of a runner in a race. At times the runner runs faster and at times the runner is slower.)

Instantaneous speed – the moment to moment speed at each point in time

Average speed – determined by taking the total distance traveled divided by the total time taken.

Below is data taken from a cross-country car trip. Fill in any spaces left blank on the table, and answer the final question on the back.

	Starting City	Ending City	Distance	Time	Speed
①	Sacramento, CA	Carson City, NV	132 miles	2 hours	
②	Carson City, NV	Boise, ID	451 miles	6.35 hours	
③	Boise, ID	Denver, CO	830 miles		59 mph
④	Denver, CO	Austin, TX		12.5 hours	77 mph
⑤	Austin, TX	Springfield, IL	980 miles		70 mph
⑥	Springfield, IL	Indianapolis, IN		5.2 hours	40 mph
⑦	Indianapolis, IN	Columbus, OH	176 miles	2.2 hours	
⑧	Columbus, OH	Tallahassee, FL	840 miles		60 mph
⑨	Tallahassee, FL	Boston, MA		24 hours	55 mph

1. What was the driver's average speed for the entire trip? Show/Explain your work on the back of this page.

