One Crazy Summer

The Graphic Novel

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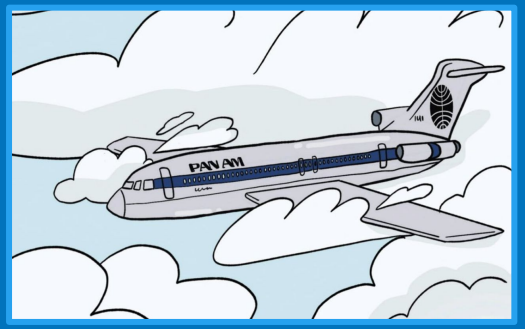
Flying Distance Word Problem Project

Developed by Juliet Henderson, Hayden Miller, and Ainsley Samatas for CU Boulder's Children Book Festival 2025, Open Education Resource, Creative Commons. Available at colorado.edu/event/bookfest

Grade and Colorado Academic Standard



- Grade Level: 4th
- Content Area: Math
- Colorado Academic Standards information:
  - #3: Data, Statistics, and Probability
  - Grade Level Expectation: Measurement & Data: Solve problems involving measurement and conversation of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit.
  - Evidence Outcome: Use the four operations to **solve word problems involving distances, intervals of time**, liquid volumes, masses of objects, and money, including **problems involving simple fractions or decimals**, and problems that require measurements given in a larger unit in terms of a smaller unit. Represent measurement quantities using diagrams such as a number line diagrams that feature a measurement scale.

- Colorado Academic Standard information retrieved from https://www.cde.state.co.us/apps/standards.
- View the full standards at https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/standards

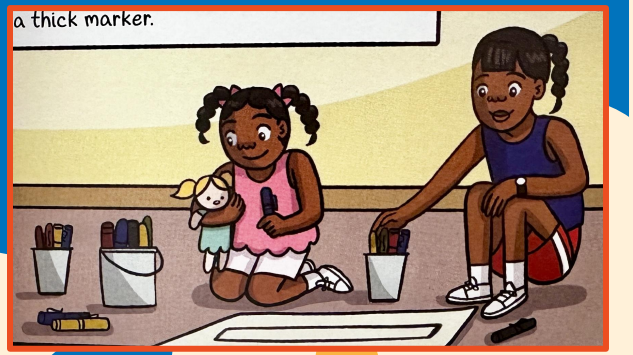
Activity Overview

Individual Activity

Students will work individually to create a word problem based on a place they would like to travel, a place they have visited, or even somewhere they might go to visit family, just like Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern in the book! They will research the distance and travel time, then use this information to calculate the plane's speed in miles per hour (MPH). Finally, students will present their word problem, calculations, and images of their destination, and explore the projects (and destinations) of their classmates!

Materials

- White paper, construction paper, or poster board (for final project)
- Pencils, crayons, markers, or colored pencils (for writing and visuals)
- Scissors and glue sticks (for printed images)
- Access to computers or tablets (for researching distances, flight times, and finding images)



Step By Step Directions

Introduction

1. Begin introducing the project by reminding the students of the characters in *One Crazy Summer* and how they traveled from New York City to San Francisco to visit family.

2. Explain that students will use math to create a word problem about the distance and time to a destination.

Step By Step Directions

Introduction

3. Explain to students that they can choose any destination they may like. This is the exciting part for the students so provide fun examples like Disney World, Japan, or somewhere a family member lives.

4. Show an example word problem on the board (ex. If it takes 5.75 hours to fly 2,900 miles from New York City to San Francisco, the plane Delphine and her sisters are in travels 504 miles per hour).

Step By Step Directions

Directions for Students

1. Choose ANYWHERE you want to go! This can be a place you have traveled to before, somewhere you would love to see, or even the home of a family member (like Delphine and her sisters did)!

2. Open your computer or tablet and use a safe searching browser to figure out:

    a. The distance in miles from their home city to their destination.

    b. The amount of time it takes a plane to get to their destination.

Step By Step Directions

Directions for Students

3. Use those two numbers to figure out the miles per hour. Show your work clearly.

    a. Take the distance (how many miles the plane travels)

    b. Divide by the time (how many hours the flight takes)

    c. The answer is your miles per hour!

Step By Step Directions

Directions for Students

4. Create a word problem using these three numbers (ex. If it takes me 4.5 hours to fly 1,900 miles from Denver, CO to Orlando, FL, then the plane I'm in travels 422 miles per hour).

5. Create your final project on paper or poster board, including:
   a. Your word problem
   b. Your math work
   c. A drawing or printed picture of your destination (or both!)
   d. Optional: Feel free to add why you want to visit this destination, if you have been there before, or any connections you have to it!

Step By Step Directions

Directions for Students

6. Display your project for classmates to explore during a gallery walk!

7. When your teacher gives you directions to do so, check out your classmates' posters!

Step By Step Directions

Wrap up (teacher)

1. Set up a gallery walk with all of the students' projects around the classroom. If you don't think this is the best option for your students, individual presentations in front of the class can be just as fun!

2. Ask students to share what they learned about math along with their peers destination choices.
    - Challenge students to find patterns between the amount of distance and time for each project.

3. Connect back to *One Crazy Summer* by discussing how travel connects to families and experiences.

Additional Suggestions

- For students that may benefit, have them submit the name of their destination during their first day of the project. By the next class period, have sticky notes ready for each student, providing them with their two numbers (miles and hours) to complete their math problem with.

- Online presentations can also be done instead of physical ones.

- For Spanish-speaking students: Provide a bilingual vocabulary word bank (e.g., *miles = millas, hours = horas, speed = velocidad*) to support understanding of the math task.

Example of an online final project:

Join Us!

We also hope you can join us on Saturday, November 8 at the Boulder Public Library to meet Rita Williams-Garcia and Sharee Miller to hear more about *One Crazy Summer* in-person…along with other authors and illustrators! For more information, visit https://www.colorado.edu/event/bookfest

The CU Boulder School of Education and Boulder Bookstore present the

2025 Children's Book Festival

Saturday, November 8 | Boulder Public Library

Join us on Saturday, November 8, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Boulder Public Library (Main Branch) - 1001 Arapahoe Ave.
Free parking available

This **free event** includes author talks, a panel for educators, book sales and signing, children's activities and more. Come for part of the event, or stay for the day!

Free educational resources available on our website. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) available for teachers and librarians.

The CU Children's Book Festival is supported by a grant from the CU Office for Public and Community Engaged Scholarship (PACES)

See the schedule & register:
colorado.edu/event/bookfest

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