

## Progress Monitoring Probe 1

### High-Speed Trains

Every day in places around the world, special trains called high-speed trains travel between cities at amazingly fast speeds.	10
Passengers everywhere seem to love the ride these trains provide. Adam Lee, a teacher, recently rode a high-speed train in France. "I felt as if I was gliding along on a sheet of ice," he reported.	20
One type of high-speed train was first introduced in Japan about forty years ago. The train is low to the ground, and its nose looks somewhat like the nose of a jet. Because of its sleek design, the train is called a bullet train. Early bullet trains provided the first passenger service that moved at a speed of one hundred miles per hour. Today, bullet trains are even faster, traveling at speeds of almost two hundred miles per hour.	29
There are many reasons that high-speed trains are popular. For one thing, the trains have excellent safety records. In Japan, three billion passengers have ridden on bullet trains, and yet not one person has ever been injured. In addition, high-speed trains do not use as much fuel as other forms of transportation. They are powered by electricity that comes from a wire running above the train. As a result, they burn less fuel than older trains and jets.	41
Another reason that high-speed trains are popular is their comfort. Passengers sit in wide, comfortable seats and watch the passing view from wide windows. In some trains, these happy customers are even served food and drinks.	56
Experts are using technology to design ever faster high-speed trains. One of the newest types makes use of magnets in the train	57
	68
	82
	94
	105
	117
	127
	137
	147
	158
	169
	180
	192
	203
	216
	217
	227
	237
	247
	254
	264
	277

### High-Speed Trains (Continued)

tracks. The magnets turn on and off rapidly, causing the train to "float" above the tracks. One train of this type can travel more than thirteen miles in just seven minutes!	289
In the future, high-speed trains will, no doubt, be even faster than they are today. In the meantime, if you ever have a chance to ride a high-speed train, don't hesitate for a second. You may just miss your chance.	301
	308
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	346
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