

10.2 The Olympics

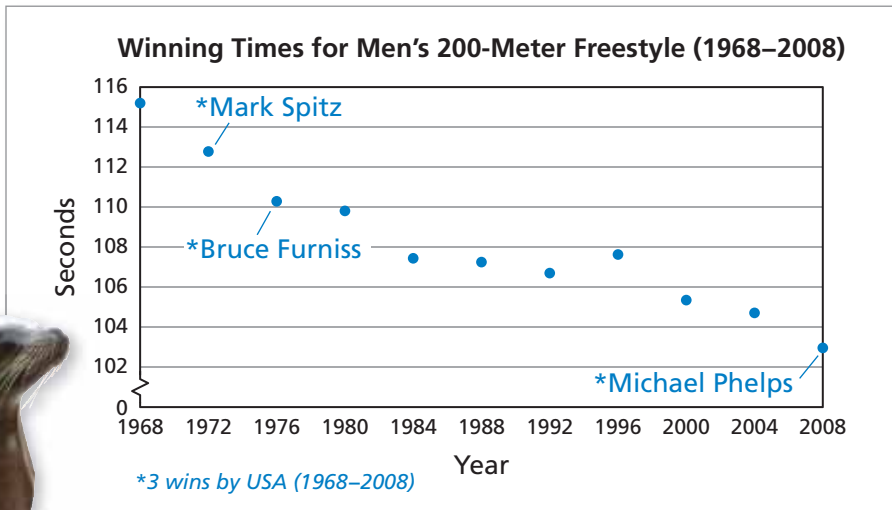
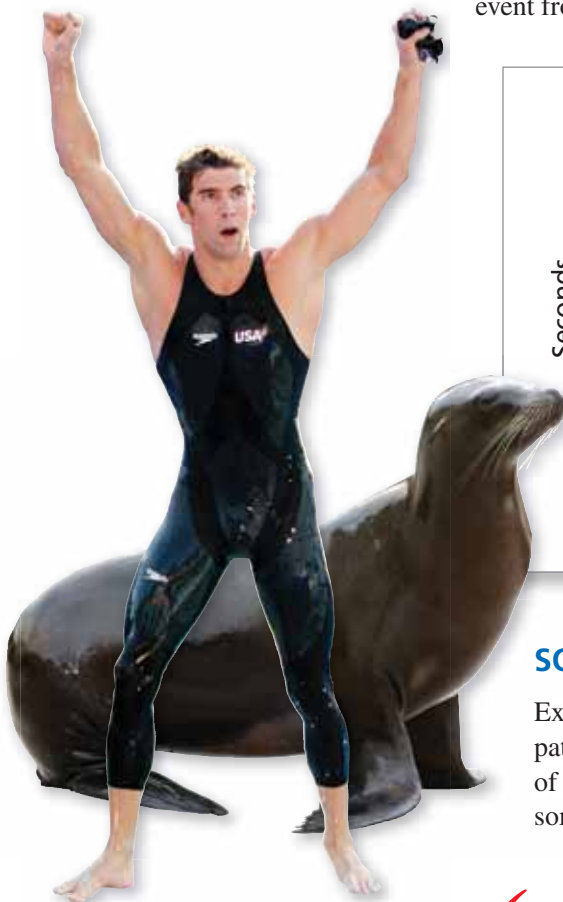
- ▶ Analyze winning times and heights in the Summer Olympics.
- ▶ Analyze winning times in the Winter Olympics.
- ▶ Understand Olympic scoring.

The Summer Olympics

The Summer Olympics are held every 4 years. The games feature thousands of athletes with over 30 sports and about 400 different events.

EXAMPLE 1 Analyzing Winning Times

The graph shows the winning times for the men’s 200-meter freestyle swimming event from 1968 through 2008. Describe the pattern in the graph.



SOLUTION

Except for 1996, the winning time has decreased each year. The pattern for the times is roughly linear. At the 2008 Olympics, the use of full-body suits coincided with many new records, which caused some controversy.

At the 2008 Olympics, Michael Phelps’s speed in the 200-meter freestyle swimming event was about 4.3 miles per hour. A California sea lion, which is larger than a human, can swim up to 25 miles per hour.

✓ Checkpoint

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Sketch a graph of the winning times (in seconds) for the women’s 200-meter freestyle swimming event from 1968 through 2008. Describe any patterns in the graph.



- (1968, 130.50), (1972, 123.56), (1976, 119.26), (1980, 118.33),
- (1984, 119.23), (1988, 117.65), (1992, 117.90), (1996, 118.16),
- (2000, 118.24), (2004, 118.03), (2008, 114.82)