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Getting to Know Formula One - Some Key Facts

In the beginning: The first Formula One race in a Drivers World
 Championship was the British Grand Prix, held on 18th May 1950 at
 the Silverstone racetrack. Later that year, the winner of this race,
 Italian Guiseppe Farina, was also crowned the inaugural Formula
 One World Champion.



A global championship: Only seven races comprised the first 1950 championship, but over time
the calendar has more than doubled in size. In 2006, there will be 19 races taking place in 18



different countries, including at the newest venue in Turkey which debuted in the 2005 season.

Jostling for position: Eleven teams will compete for the 2006
Constructors Championship with every team entering a
maximum of two cars into each race throughout the season.
The largest ever field competing in a grand prix was when 34

cars went head-to-head in the German Grand Prix in 1953.

 Drawing in the crowds: During the Formula One season races will be broadcast on live TV to 120 nations with a 161 million viewers watching each race. As well as the huge television audiences, over 3.5 million people will attend Formula One races in person each year.



 A long way round: The distance of each Grand Prix is the least number of laps which exceeds 305km (185 miles), and while most races are completed in under 90 minutes, races will be stopped after two hours and the leader who finishes his lap at the end of two hours wins.



- Hitting the extremes: As the fastest road machines on earth, Formula One cars can achieve speeds of up to 300 km per hour (185 mph), with engines that operate at over 18,000 revs per minute and can generate up to 1,000 horsepower. During races, brakes can run as hot as 750 degrees Celsius and cars can develop 3.5Gs of cornering force.
- On the grid: Track starting positions are decided during qualifying sessions on the days before a
 race. 2006 will see a new 3 session format, with the first two sessions being 15 minutes each
 with the slowest five cars eliminated at each round, then the remaining ten cars competing in
 the final session to decide the places at the front of the grid.
- Team sport: Throughout races, cars, drivers can make one or more pit stops to refuel and correct any damage to the car. At least 17 members of the team are involved in each pit stop with three mechanics changing each tyre, two refuelling the car, one holding the stop/go sign, one lifting the car up from behind, one to hold the car from the front, one to clean the driver's visor and two to supervise. And all this will normally take place in under 10 seconds!





- While Europe is Formula One's traditional centre and remains its leading market, Grand Prix have been held all over the world and with races now in Bahrain, China, Malaysia and Turkey, its scope is continually expanding.
- Technology drives performance: During a season, teams
 redesign up to 15% of cars in the short time between grand

prix races in efforts to continually improve speeds and road-holding performance.

- Accident-prone: The only recorded race where all racing drivers that began a race also finished it
 was in 1961 for the Dutch GP when 15 cars lined-up on the grid at Zandvoort and all 15 also
 finished.
- **Best of the best:** The most successful Formula One racing car driver of all time is Michael Schumacher of Germany who has won the **Drivers Championship a record seven times** and during one unmatched spell was World Champion for **more than 1,800 days**.
- Boy wonder: The youngest ever driver to both take pole position and to win a
 grand prix is 2005 World Champion Fernando Alonso of Spain. The worldfamous Monaco Grad Prix continues to race through the streets of the
 playground of the rich and famous.
- Off-road vehicles: All except one of the Formula One circuits are specially designed racetracks.

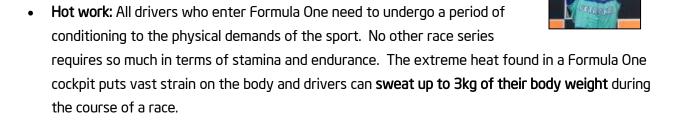
Ready, set, go: Grand Prix races start upon the extinction of all the
red lights at one. This occurs between 0.2 and 3 seconds after the
last red light has been lit. This lapse of time is pre-programmed by
the starter at each race, but kept secret.



 Burning rubber: While normal car tyres are made with heavy steelbelted radial plies and designed for durability with a life of around 16,000 km or more, a F1 tyre is designed to last for, at most, 200 kilometers and is constructed to be as light and strong as possible.



On the road: Each team competing in the Formula One World
 Championship will travel around 160,000
 kilometers (100,000 miles) a year between
 races and testing sessions with some of the
 larger constructors doing more than that.



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