High-Velocity V8s



Race into a "pitstop" of V8 Supercars!

Sharon Parsons

Nelson Literacy Directions

High-Velocity V8s

For teachers' inspection ONLY



My sincere thanks to the following people for their time, information, images and enthusiasm for this book:

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V8 Supercar teams: Jamie Whincup, Steve Owen, James Courtney, Steven Johnson

Dear Reader

During one of my school visits, some students suggested that I write a book about V8 Supercars. I didn't know very much about this motorsport so I contacted a friend, Gerry Justus, who manages a company called Globecam in Melbourne. Gerry's company designs in-car camera systems for V8 Supercars. With Gerry's help, I attended two V8 Supercar Championship races, where I thoroughly enjoyed interviewing V8 Supercar drivers and their teams. Everyone was very helpful. That's me pictured with Jamie Whincup in the picture opposite.

> **V8 SUPERCARS DRIVERS MUST BE VERY FIT AND HEALTHY TO DRIVE ABOUT 1 000 KILOMETRES IN EACH CHAMPIONSHIP RACE.**

I also liked the fact that V8 Supercars drivers help promote passenger and driver safety to school students around Australia.

Join me on a V8 Supercars tour!

Sharon Parsons

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1 V8 Supercars Championship

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Every year in February, the V8 Supercars Championship begins at Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates. Hundreds of millions of people around the world attend or tune in to watch some the world's best drivers in a series of V8 Supercars battles, which run from February to December. It's a gruelling travel schedule for everyone involved: there are 15 Supercars events around Australia, and two international events (Hamilton, New Zealand and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates).



racing at night in Abu Dhabi

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Racing for the corner!



Racing around the corner!

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2 What Is a V8 Supercar?

A V8 Supercar starts out as a standard vehicle but most of the parts are specially modified to transform it into a high-performance Supercar.

Lightweight for Speed

To enable the Supercar to reach speeds of up to 300 kilometres per hour, all non-essential car parts are stripped out to make the car lighter.

Strong for Safety

A very strong roll-bar cage is fitted to protect the driver and strengthen the car's chassis. The car's extra strength also makes it faster.



Following the earthquakes in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2011, V8 Supercars drivers showed their support for people affected by the disaster with signs on their cars.

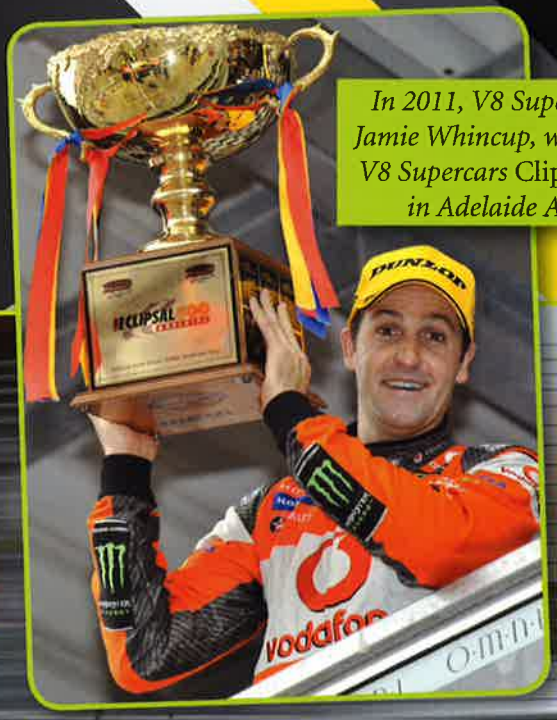


Spoon is a V8 Supercars mechanic who enjoys his job.

AN EXPENSIVE SPORT

V8 Supercars racing is an expensive sport. Each car can cost about 500 000 dollars to build so a V8 Supercar team relies on company sponsorships to pay for the additional costs, such as the driver's salary, running costs and a team of specialist support people.

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In 2011, V8 Supercar driver, Jamie Whincup, won his fourth V8 Supercars Clipsal 500 *race, in Adelaide Australia.*



At high speeds, the V8 Supercars wheels can lift off!

Specifications for **Supercars**

Each V8 Supercar ...

- has a specially designed five-litre V8 engine.
- is among the heaviest racing vehicle in the world, at 1355 kilograms!
- can reach speeds in excess of 294 kilometres an hour!
- can accelerate to 100 kilometres an hour in 3.8 seconds!
- can hold 120 litres of bioethanol fuel (pages 30 and 31 have more information on fuel).
- includes a car-to-pit telemetry system (page 21 has more information on telemetry).

V8 ENGINE

In simple terms, a V8 engine has eight cylinders. Two rows of four cylinders are arranged in a "V" shape.



a computer-generated image of a V8 engine

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3 V8 Supercars Drivers

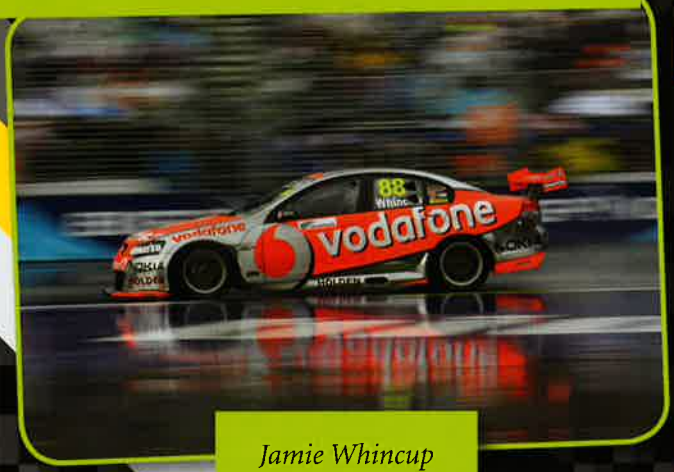
Each year, only 28 drivers are selected to compete in the top tier of the of V8 Supercars Championship. The drivers are highly skilled and can drive at speeds of up to 300 kilometres an hour. They are extremely fit and are able to race for about two hours while maintaining focus and alertness in an effort to be first past the chequered flag.

V8 Supercars Drivers – 2011



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A Featured Driver, Pages 10–13



Jamie Whincup

A Featured Driver, Pages 14–19



Steve Owen

A Driver and His Son



V8 Supercar driver Steve Johnson with his son

Aim for the Chequered Flag!

