The Great Race

Mika has three snails named Ernie, Bernie, and Clyde.

Ernie moves at a rate of 4 inches per minute.

Bernie is a bit faster, and can move at 5 inches per minute.

Clyde is the fastest of the three snails, and moves at 6 inches per minute.

One day, Mika decides to have a snail race on the track shown below. To make it a fairer race, Mika does the following:

Ernie and Bernie start at the same time, but Ernie gets a head start of five inches.

Clyde starts at the same place as Bernie, but starts one minute later.

Bernie		Er	nie											Finish						
0 Clyc		4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	→ 40

- a) If the finish line is at the 40-inch mark, which snail wins the race?
- b) Who is ahead after 3 seconds?
- c) How much time does it take Clyde to catch Ernie?
- d) How far has Clyde gone when he catches up to Ernie?
- e) For how much time is Bernie in the lead?
- f) If Mika wants Bernie to win, where should the finish line be?
- g) Graph this situation and make sure to label the axes.
- h) Based on your graph, write an equation for each snail.



Menu Questions

***A few days later, Mika sets up another snail race. This time;
Bernie and Clyde start at the beginning but Bernie starts two minutes before Clyde.
Ernie starts at the same time as Bernie, but starts further down the track.

a) If there is a three-way tie at the finish line, where did Ernie start the race?

