

Freefall Notes

9/3/19

$$V = \frac{\Delta x}{t}$$

$$a = \frac{\Delta v}{t}$$

$$V_f = V_i + at$$

$$d = V_i t + \frac{1}{2} at^2$$

$$V_f^2 = V_i^2 + 2ad$$

★ gravity on Earth is always -9.8 m/s^2 ★

Example problem:

Mrs. Mikula is standing at the top of the Grand Canyon which is 1857 m tall. She drops her cell phone off the edge of the cliff. How long is the cell phone in the air?

① write Givens:

$$d = -1857 \text{ m}$$

$$a_g = -9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$V_i = 0 \text{ m/s}$$

$$t = ?$$

② choose formula:

$$d = V_i t + \frac{1}{2} at^2$$

③ Plug $-1857 \text{ m} = 0(t) + \frac{1}{2}(-9.8)t^2$

in #3
$$-1857 = \frac{1}{2}(-9.8)t^2$$

④ SOLVE:

$$\frac{-1857}{-4.9} = \frac{-4.9 t^2}{-4.9}$$

$$\boxed{378.98 = t^2}$$

$$\boxed{19.45 = t}$$

What is the final velocity of the cell phone right before it hits the ground?

$$V_f = V_i + at$$

$$V_f = 0 + (-9.8)(19.4s)$$

$$V_f = -190.12 \text{ m/s}$$

Things to remember:

If an object is being dropped, its initial velocity (V_i) is 0 m/s.

If an object is being thrown up, its final velocity (V_f) at the top of its path (before it comes back down) is 0 m/s.