

# John Henry

Tall tales don't always tell the truth! See if you can separate fact from fiction: read the tall tale of John Henry below, then list parts of the story that could be true and the parts that probably aren't in the chart on the right.

John Henry was a steel-driver who worked on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. He was the fastest steel-driver who ever lived! He was over seven feet tall and 300 pounds of muscle, and could hammer faster than any person you've ever met.



One day, his boss came to work with a mechanical steam-powered hammer. "This machine can drive ten times as many holes as any person, and will save us money and time!" he said joyfully.

"I beg to differ," said John. "No machine can replace me or any of my co-workers. I challenge you and your hammer to a contest. Let's drive clean through that mountain, and we'll just see who – or what – finishes first."

The man and the machine set off on a race. The steam hammer was fast, but John Henry was a lot faster!



He finished drilling through the mountain in ten minutes flat, the steam hammer far behind him.



True	Make-Believe