

MIKE  
BARFIELD



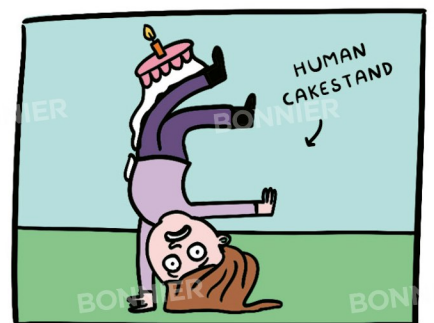
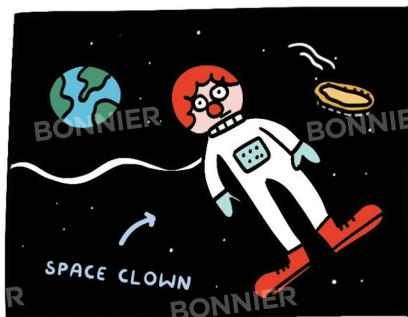
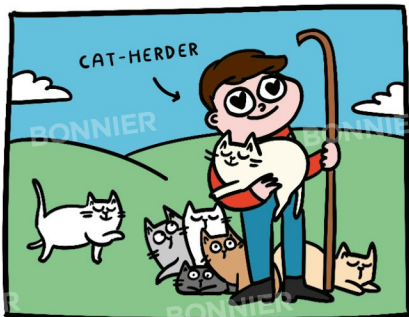
# HUMAN CANNONBALL

THE WORLD'S FIRST

AND OTHER  
INCREIBLE  
JOBS

FRANZISKA  
HÖLLBACHER





THESE JOBS  
ARE **NOT** INCREDIBLE.  
THEY ARE JUST **SILLY!**



For Jessica, who has done an incredible job with us all! - M.B.

For my agent Maria, who has been there every step of my way. - F.H.

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DUMMY

# THE WORLD'S FIRST HUMAN CANNONBALL

AND OTHER  
INCREDIBLE JOBS

MIKE  
BARFIELD

templar  
books

FRANZISKA  
HÖLLBACHER

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# INTRODUCTION

Hello, and CONGRATULATIONS on winning the very important job of

**READER-IN-CHIEF**

of this book!



It's an exciting position that comes with lots of great rewards!

The hours are flexible. You can dip in and out at any time that suits you, day or night. All we ask in return is that you learn a little and laugh a lot as we reveal the astonishing stories behind...

*The First Human Cannonball  
and other Incredible Jobs.*

From ancient Egypt to modern times, the whole wide world  
of work lies between these pages - from the strange to  
the dangerous and even out into space!

So, grab a chair and get to work.  
It'll certainly pay you back in facts and  
laughs. Plus, this book won't read itself,  
you know!



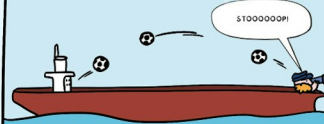
Early humans moved around in search of food. Simply surviving was a job in itself. Since we settled down, there have been lots of odd occupations, past and present, that involve transport or travel. That's what this first chapter is all about, so here are four fab facts to get you going!

## LEAST EASY CHAIR

Sedan chairs carried fashionable people across filthy city streets over 200 years ago. The chairs were heavy, rides were bumpy and accidents often occurred!

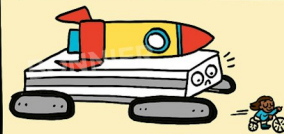


## WORLD'S LONGEST SHIP



Scrapped in 2009, the Seawise Giant oil tanker was four football pitches long. Its captain always planned ahead, as the ship took 9 km to come to a halt.

## HEAVIEST LAND VEHICLE



US space agency NASA uses huge crawler-transporters to take rockets to their launch sites. Due to the extremely heavy weight, it has a top speed of 1.6 km/hour. No speed fiends need apply!

## FIRST AIR STEWARDS



For men, starting in 1912, German Heinrich Kubis served on giant Zeppelin airships. For women, American Ellen Church (a trained pilot) began stewarding planes in 1930.

# INCAN MESSENGER

Hi! I'm a piece of string in the Incan Empire some 1,000 years ago!

ME TOO!

AND ME!

The Empire is vast. Over 3,000 km long on the coast of South America.



We help the Incan ruler in Cuzco send important messages - but first we have to get knotted!

WHAT?

HOW RUDE!

KNOT!

TWIST!

TIE!

See? Our knots contain coded information.

WOAH! REALLY?

COOL!

We're part of a 'mop' of lots of string messages called a quipo...

WHAT A LOT OF KNOTS!

KNICE!

This gets carried by a messenger called a chasqui - chosen for being speedy...

I can run at a rate of knots!

Chasquis run in relay between shelters called tambos, keeping the quipo moving quickly between them...

RUNNING IN THIS HEAT?

YES, I'M HOT FOOTING IT!

HURRY UP!

I'M WAITING!

Blowing a sea snail horn as an alert, a quipo can cover over 200 km in a day between chasquis...

PAAARP!

WORLD'S FASTEST MOVING SNAIL.

Eventually, the quipo reaches its recipient and gets decoded...

PUFF!

PFFF!

OOH POST!

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

SEND MORE STRING - WE'RE RUNNING OUT

## JUST THE JOB: GET THE MESSAGE

### WINGING IT

Winston the pigeon became a celebrity in South Africa in 2009 when he flew home 96 km with a 4 GB memory stick faster than the data could be downloaded online. Cool!

### HIGH OFFICE

The China Postal Service runs the world's highest post office at Base Camp on Mount Everest. Climbers can send postcards in warmer months. Wish you were there?

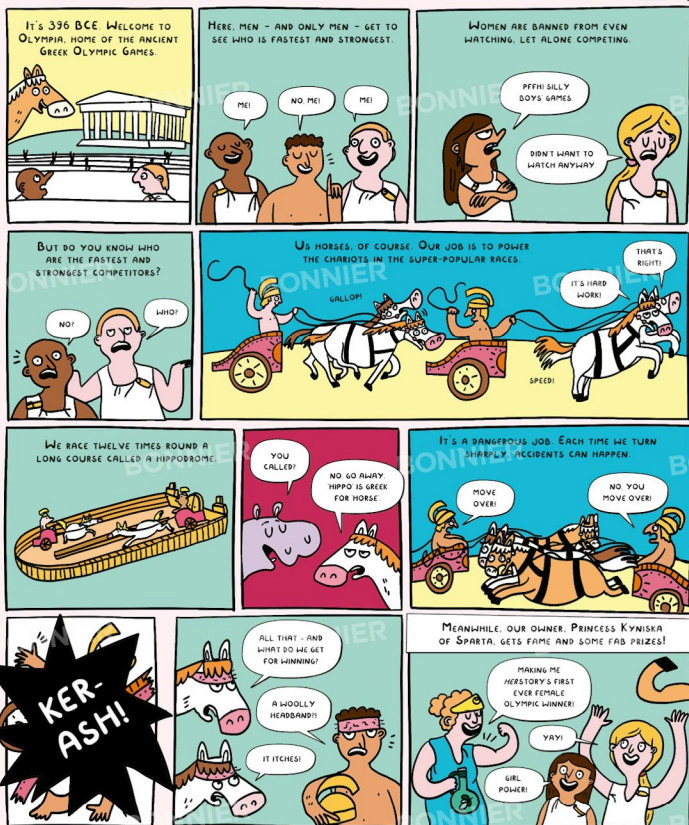
### DRONING ON!

Drones are already replacing delivery drivers in hard-to-reach places around the world. In Rwanda, Africa, they carry medical supplies - just what the doctor ordered!

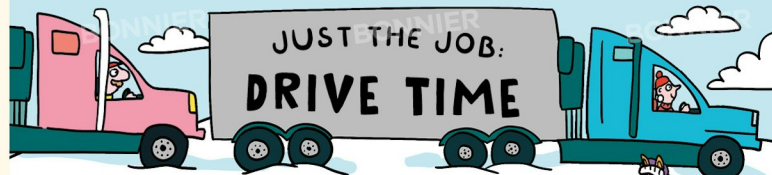
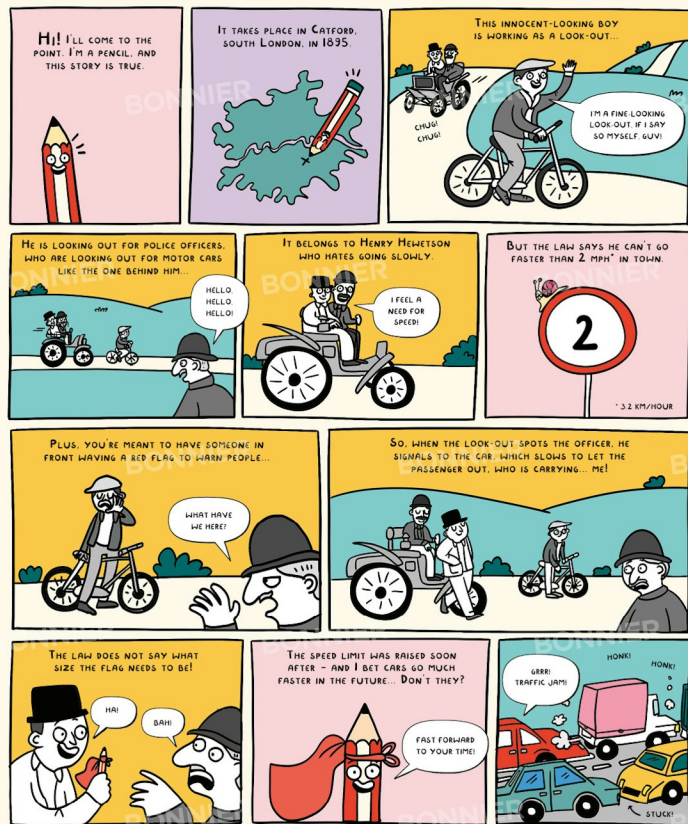
### DON'T MISS THE BOAT!

A mailboat on Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, USA, keeps moving slowly along the shoreline, while young 'mail-jumpers' jump off and on stuffing mailboxes on piers. Sometimes they fall in!

# CHARIOT RACER

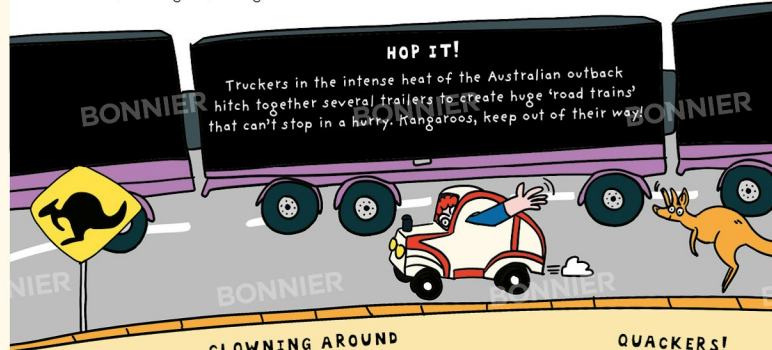


# RED FLAG LAD



## CHILL OUT!

Truckers supplying mines in northern Canada have to drive over frozen lakes and rivers. The trick is to never stop moving or you might break the ice. Eek!



## CLOWNING AROUND

German-born Lou Jacobs invented the one-person clown car in the 1950s. He could squeeze inside and drive it around despite being 1.85 m tall and the car just 90 cm long.

## QUACKERS!

Many cities have so-called 'duck tours' where special amphibious buses take sightseers through rivers, lakes and harbours, as well as on regular roads!



# THE DAY JOB

## AVIATRIX



NAME: BESSIE COLEMAN  
NATIONALITY: AMERICAN  
OCCUPATION: AVIATRIX

# BESSIE COLEMAN

Hi! My name is Bessie Coleman. I was born in Atlanta, Texas, USA, in 1892, one of thirteen children. What's an **aviatrix**? Well, keep reading and you'll find out!

In my early 20s, I moved to Chicago and worked in a beauty parlour. World War I was underway and soldiers back from France told me they had seen something amazing...

**women pilots!** I was so excited. If men could become aviators, then I wanted to be an **aviatrix** – a female flyer. But no one would teach me because I was Black and a woman.

PFPH!

But I showed them. I studied French at night school and in 1920 I took my savings and sailed to France to take flying lessons in Paris. Magnifique!



MY PILOT'S  
LICENCE

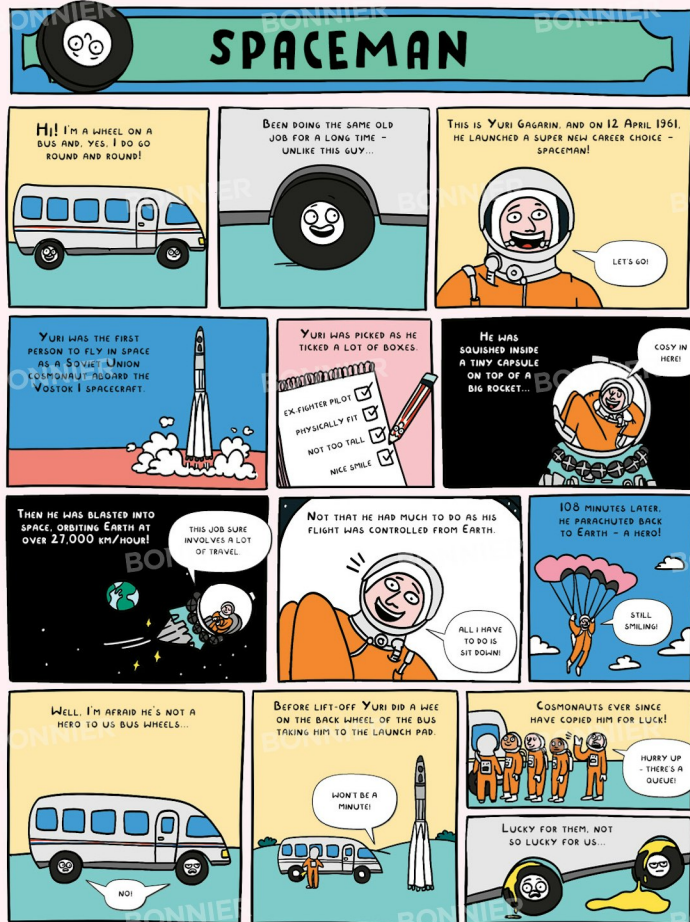
I proved to be a brilliant and brave pilot. I was the first Black woman to get a pilot's licence, and when I went home in 1922, I was hailed a heroine!

Now I had a new career as a daredevil stunt flyer in public air displays across America. I also had a smart new flying outfit made for me to wear!

I performed loop the loops, figures of eight and death-defying dives – but only on condition that black folks and white folks watched together, as equals.

I became so famous, the press called me 'Queen Bess' and now there are roads, schools and airports named after me. You could say that when it came to my job, I was a real high flyer!







## BROUGHT TO BOOK

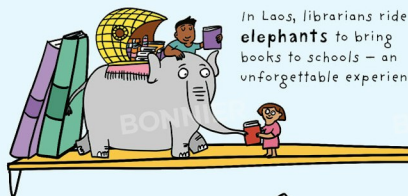
Books are brilliant. They can take you to another place without ever leaving your seat. Better still, mobile libraries can bring you fresh books for free! Check these out!



In Colombia, the **Biblioburro**, ('donkey library') brings books to remote villages. Two donkeys – Alfa and Beto – do the, er, donkey work.



In Mongolia, **camels** carry books to desert-dwelling nomads. No need to be lost for words!



In Laos, librarians ride **elephants** to bring books to schools – an unforgettable experience!



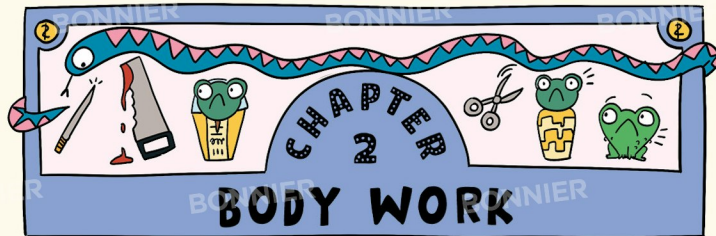
In Argentina, an artist turned a car into a **tank** that drives round offering free books. Take cover!



In southern Italy, a retired teacher travels round in a bright blue **book house** with a tiled roof and a little chimney. Smoking!



Books ahoi! Remote islands in Sweden get visited twice a year by the **bokbåten** ('book boat').



The human body is a brilliant bit of kit. There are tons of tasks it can take on, as well as providing jobs for people who claim they can fix it when it breaks down – not all of them honest or reliable! This chapter gets a bit grisly in places, but if you've got the guts for it, let's work that body – beginning with four fab facts!

### OLDEST KNOWN SURGERY



A skeleton found in Borneo had successfully had a foot removed 31,000 years ago, when only stone tools existed! Ug!

### REST IN PIECES



Three hundred years ago, thieves known as body-shatchers stole corpses from fresh graves to sell to medical students who then cut them up.

### HANDY WORK



You don't have to show your face to get a top job in TV and films. Some people have lovely hands and get paid to show them in close-up shots.

### BENDIEST BODY



Nicknamed 'The Rubberboy', US professional contortionist Daniel Browning Smith has super-flexible joints and can even turn his head behind him like an owl!

# MUMMY MAKER

Hi! I'm a chief embalmer in ancient Egypt over 3,000 years ago, preserving the corpses of kings and rich people.



I work with dead bodies, so obviously I need to wear a mask...



It's of the jackal-headed Anubis, our god of the Afterlife and Mummification.



I look like a dog, and work like one too!



Oh, with our help!

We do the grisly stuff!

First, my assistant removes the brain through the nose...



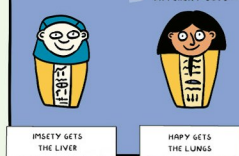
Why did I pick this?

Next, we slice open their side with a sharp stone knife.



Not sure I'm cut out for embalming.

Then we remove all the organs (except for the heart) and put them in jars with the heads of different gods.



Imsety gets the liver.

Hapy gets the lungs.

Dumutef gets the stomach.

This jar with the intestines is of the god Qebensekuef!



That's easy for you to say.

Finally, we wash the corpse with wine, add aromatic oils and herbs, then pack it with a special salt to dry it out.



It takes 40 days.

No rush, he's dead.

Then, of course, we'll end by covering it in linen strips to make a mummy.



And that's a wrap!

Groan!

What shall I do with the brain?



Chuck it!

You don't need brains in this job!

You said it!

## JUST THE JOB: WORK LIKE AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN

### SAD BUSINESS

Ancient Egyptian funerals might be attended by professional mourners – women paid to wail with grief. To do the job, they had to be childless. Being a real mummy was not allowed!

### IT'S A STEAL

Tomb robber was a profitable job in ancient Egypt, stealing the treasures placed in pyramids alongside mummified royals. The objects in museums today are the things they missed!

### MONKEY BUSINESS

Not all thieves got away with their crimes. Egyptian officials used trained baboons to catch suspects. It's the long tail of the law!

### WORKING MUMMIES

Being dead didn't stop mouldy old mummies being useful. Millions of mummies were made, and in the past they were turned into brown paint and magic 'medicine'.

### MOUSEWORK

Cats worked hard keeping homes and the harvest safe from hungry rats and mice. No wonder they were worshipped as gods and also made into mummies!

 **BARBER-SURGEON** 

HELLO! WELCOME TO  
EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE AGES  
I'M A BARBER-SURGEON.



THE BARBER BIT MEANS  
I CHOP OFF HAIR...

BIT OFF THE  
BACK PLEASE.

THE SURGEON BIT MEANS  
I CHOP OFF LIMBS.

BIT OFF THE LEG,  
PLEASE QUICK!

THROB!

PAIN!

BUT, DON'T WORRY. ALL MY WORK IS AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF MEDICINE

BONNIER

IT IS? PHEW!

GET HIM ON THE TABLE, GUYS. BEFORE HE WAKES UP!

YES, BOSS!

LUCKY FOR HIM! ANAESTHETICS AND PAIN-RELIEF HAVE YET TO BE INVENTED.

LUCKY FOR HIM! ANAESTHETICS AND PAIN  
RELIEF HAVE YET TO BE INVENTED.

QUICK. FETCH ME HANDFULS OF LINEN WADDING!

TO SOAK UP THE BLOOD?

NOT EXACTLY...

HERE. BOSS.

NOT EXACTLY...

HERE, BOSS.

THAT'S BETTER. A BIT OF SILENCE.

OII WHAT ABOUT MY HAIRCUT?

MFFF!

THAT'S BETTER. A BIT OF SILENCE.

OII WHAT ABOUT MY HAIRCUT?

MFFF!

THAT'S BETTER. A BIT OF SILENCE.

OII WHAT ABOUT MY HAIRCUT?

MFFF!

JUST THE JOB:  
**CURIOUS CURERS**

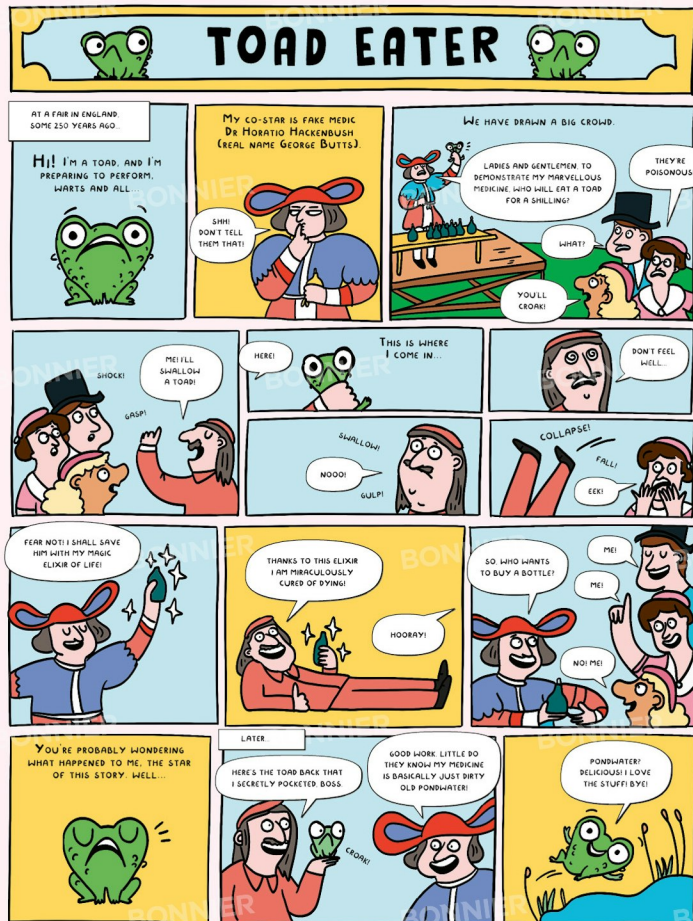
As well as lopping limbs, barber-surgeons let blood out of people's bodies. The striped poles outside many modern barbers represent the bloody bandages involved.

Water-living worms called leeches were also used to suck blood from patients. Leech collectors stood bare-legged in lakes to attract them.

Prehistoric people drilled holes in skulls to let out 'evil spirits'. Surgeons use the same technique, called 'trepanation', today to help some head injuries heal!

Dogs are more than just our best buds - they can be trained to sniff out diseases and bring people medicines. What cat would do that?

Maggots are flies in the making. Disgusting as it sounds, they are used to clear dead flesh from wounds so they mend more quickly.



# THE DAY JOB

WAXWORK  
MAKER



NAME: MARIE TUSSAUD  
NATIONALITY: FRENCH  
OCCUPATION: WAXWORK MAKER

## MARIE TUSSAUD

**Bonjour!** My name is Madame Marie Tussaud and, over 170 years after my death, I am still the most famous waxwork maker ever.  
No one can hold a candle to me!

I was born in Strasbourg, France, in 1761. Aged six, my mother became housekeeper to a Swiss doctor who also made wax figures. He taught me everything. I was a model pupil!



At 15, I completed my first full figure, of the big French thinker Voltaire. Other models followed, and one day I was asked to move to the royal Palace of Versailles to teach wax-modelling to King Louis XVI's sister, Elisabeth.

Sadly, ordinary French citizens were starving while the rich lived in luxury. I mean, look at this place!

In 1789, the French people revolted, took over the country, and eventually arrested the whole royal family – and me! Lots of nobles lost their heads on the guillotine.



I might well have lost mine too, only I was spared and asked to make wax masks of the dead heads in the executioner's basket, including those of the king and queen!

France went wild for a while, so I moved to Britain and toured my waxworks around the country. Most popular was my figure of French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. For a little man, he was a big attraction!

I eventually settled into a museum in London, and in 1842 I made a model of myself which you can still see today! When it came to making waxworks, I broke the mould!



# HUMANOID

IT'S THE 2030s IN JAPAN AND I'M A VERY HUMAN-LOOKING ROBOT...

OR AM I?

NO! I THINK YOU ARE JUST A HUMAN TRYING TO TRICK THE REPAIR INTO THINKING YOU ARE A ROBOT!

WHAT? WHO ARE YOU?

I AM AN ACTUAL ROBOT. UNLIKE YOU...

JAPANESE SCIENTISTS BEGAN DEVELOPING HUMAN-TYPE ROBOTS OVER 60 YEARS AGO...

THE FIRST WAS HARO! (BACK IN 1973!)

I COULD TALK AND WALK... UNLIKE SOME HUMANS!

UNFAIR - I'M ONLY A BABY!

TODAY ROBOTS LIKE ME CAN BLINK, TWITCH AND SMILE JUST LIKE YOU HUMANS...

BUT I AM ALSO A ROBOT!

FEMALE-LOOKING ROBOTS ARE CALLED GYNODS. MALE ONES ARE ANDROIDS.

I KNOW THIS.

BLINK!

THEN YOU'LL ALSO KNOW WE ARE REPLACING HUMANS IN THE WORKPLACE. DOING WHAT THEY DO...

BLINK!

HOW CAN I HELP?

CUSTOMER SERVICE

BLINK!

QUIET AT THE BACK!

TEACHING IN SCHOOLS

BLINK!

ZZZZZZZ

BUSINESS MEETINGS

YES YES BUT I STILL THINK YOU ARE A HUMAN BECAUSE YOU ARE ALMOST TOO LIFE-LIKE

BLINK!

YES I KNOW - HUMANS CAN FIND US TOO CREEPY

BLINK!

HUMAN!

NOT!

HUMAN!

NOT!

GOOD WORK, PROFESSOR! THEY BAKER EXACTLY LIKE PEOPLE.

HUMAN!

NOT!

YES I MAY HAVE TO ADJUST THAT.

JUST THE JOB:

## REAL LIVE WIRES

SPACE-TALK

In 2013, Kirobo was the first robot to speak in space. Just 34 cm tall, he chatted to Koichi Wakata, the first Japanese commander of the International Space Station.

### SEAL OF APPROVAL

Developed in Japan, PARO is a 'suddly robotic baby seal' that interacts with patients in nursing homes. PARO's battery charger looks like a baby's dummy!

### OH, BROTHER!

In 2010, robot expert Hiroshi Ishiguro made a twin robot of himself. Unlike a real baby brother, you could turn him off!

### NOT TO BE SNEEZED AT

Launched in 2014, Pepper is a robot that can respond to human emotions. Thousands of friendly Peppers now work in banks and airports.

### BRIGHT DAWN

DAWN is a Tokyo cafe where robot waiters are controlled remotely using the eye movements of people suffering from paralysis who cannot leave home to work.



## STAND-OUT STAND-INS

Some jobs are too dangerous or too dull for humans, so dummies, dolls or robots replace real people, instead. Amazingly, some humans work by pretending to be sculptures. Who is the dummy now?

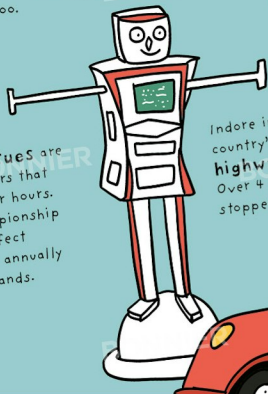
Before Yuri Gagarin orbited Earth in 1961 (see page 18) a **rubber dummy** called Ivan Ivanovich beat him to it!



In 2022, NASA tested its new Artemis rocket with three dummies nicknamed **moonikins** – a play on the word mannequin.

**Resusci-Annie** is the name of the medical doll used to teach the kiss of life. Invented by a Norwegian, it now comes in a variety of skin tones too.

**Living statues** are street-buskers that stand still for hours. A world championship for these perfect posers is held annually in the Netherlands.



Indore in India got the country's first **robot highway cop** in 2017. Over 4 m tall, it certainly stopped traffic!



The tiny Japanese village of Nagoro has **life-size dolls** instead of real people, including a class of cloth school kids.



Royals have long been the envy of less lucky humans. Compared to most working people, they had it easy. Today, some people still dream of being king or queen, but others want to be pop stars, social media influencers or perhaps even authors and illustrators! This chapter is about jobs that just seem better than others – beginning with four very cushy numbers.

### LONGEST SERVING ROYAL



Louis XIV had France's top job for 72 years and 110 days. He held court squatting on a potty built into a throne, which is what you can do when you're king.

### JUST WATCH IT!



Streaming giant Netflix pays people to watch its shows and 'tag' them so others can find new things to view. You call that work?!

### BEST JOB EVER?

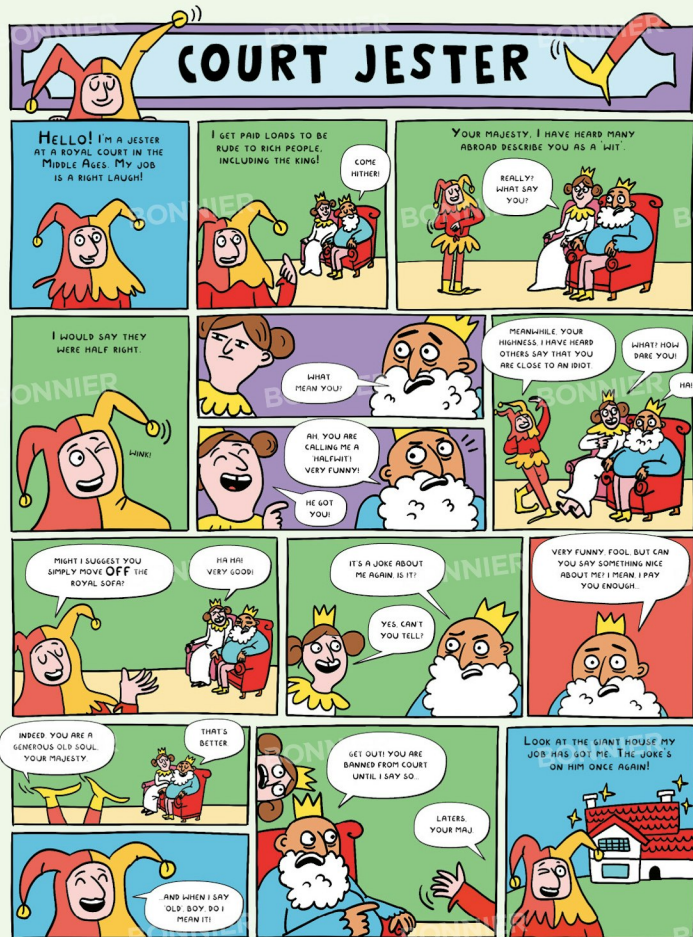


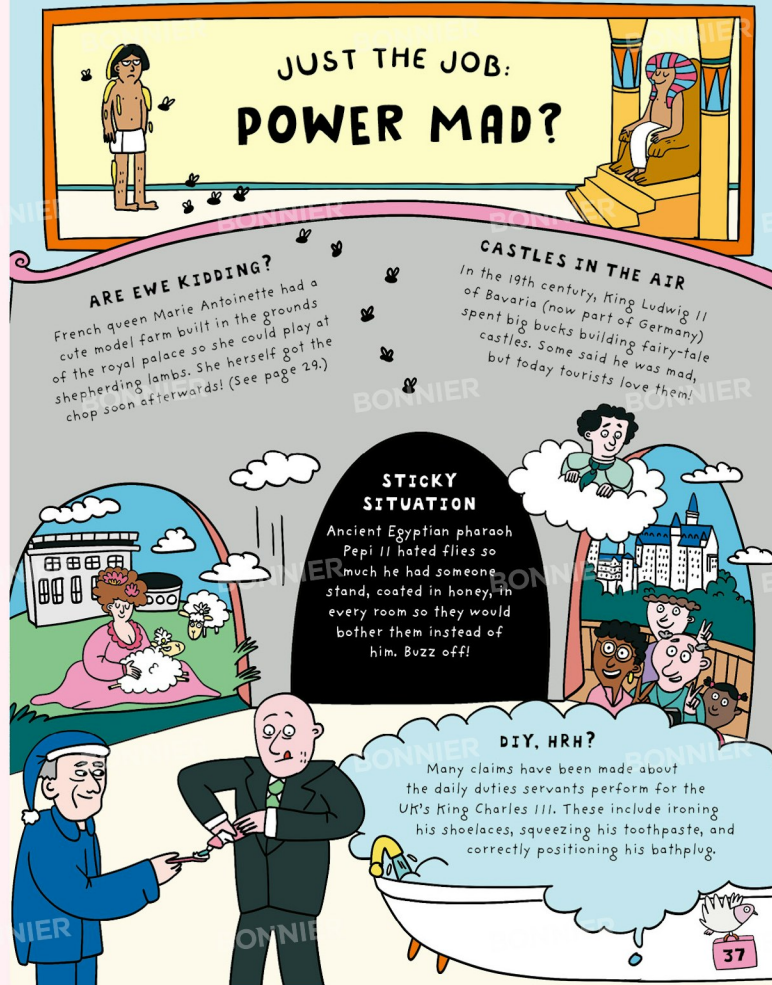
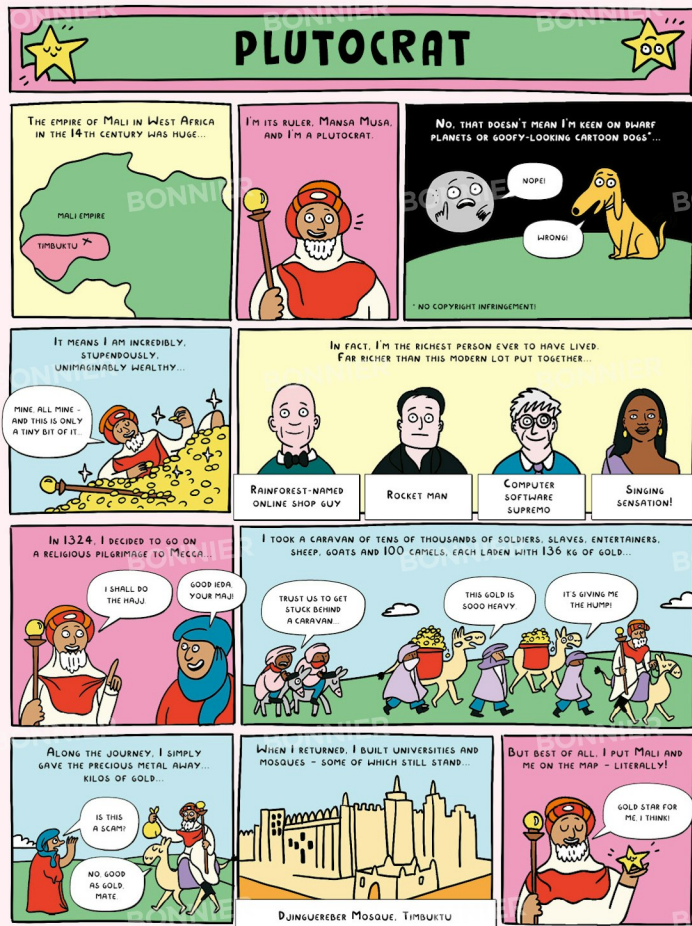
In 2014, a Chinese wildlife sanctuary advertised for a 'panda nanny' to cuddle newborn pandas. Unsurprisingly, over 100,000 people applied!

### NEXT BEST JOB EVER?



American John Harrison spent 30 years as an ice cream tester. He used a golden spoon and insured his taste buds for \$1 million US dollars!







# THE DAY JOB

## GRUMPY CAT

### INTERNET CELEBRITY



NAME TARDAR SAUCE  
(AKA GRUMPY CAT)  
NATIONALITY: CAT  
OCCUPATION: INTERNET CELEBRITY

Hello. Pleased to meet you, even if I don't look like it. That's what made me famous: I'm a sourpuss puss, known to millions by my showbiz name, Grumpy Cat.



I was one of a litter of kittens born in Arizona, USA, in 2012. My 'owner' (she thinks!) was called Tabatha Bundesen, but it was her brother Bryan who you could say 'let the cat out of the bag'.

In September 2012 he posted this snap on an internet news site, and it went viral – I think that's the right word. Frankly, I've been uninterested in computers since I discovered their mice are inedible.

People began sharing images of me and adding words as if they were my thoughts.



They're called **memes** – though I think mine should be renamed 'Meme-aows'.

The Bundesens got me on TV shows, and my grumpy mug onto mugs and other 'merch'. On social media, over 8 million people follow me on Facebook alone.

After making two movies, I also got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame – and people everywhere wanted to stroke me and take a selfie with me. It's a dog's life being a celebrity cat.



It was world news when I died in 2019, but I'll live on the internet forever, I guess. Oh, and being a cat, I still have eight more lives left. I wonder if I'll look any happier in those. I hope not. Ciaow!



In Japan, you can get a job as a **fake wedding guest** to help make up numbers!

You don't have to be rich or a royal to have one of the best jobs on the planet. People actually get paid to do these things!

A Dutch company testing **stay-clean clothes** will pay you to wear the same outfit for a week – including socks!

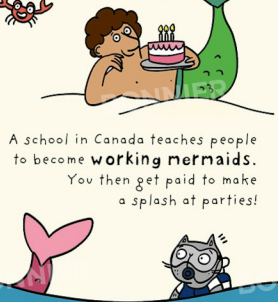
In China, **secret sleepers** test the comforts of luxury hotels. For a happy napper, it's a dream job!



**Laughter yoga** started in India in 1995. Giggling is good for you – and a funny way to make a living!



In California, USA, dogs can hang ten alongside humans thanks to professional **dog surfing instructors**.



A school in Canada teaches people to become **working mermaids**. You then get paid to make a splash at parties!

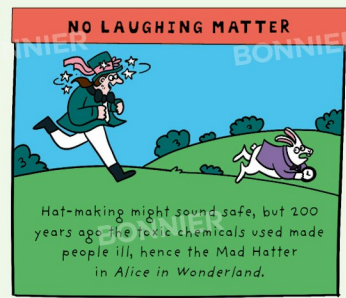


Some jobs are dream jobs, some are a nightmare – difficult to do and dangerous with it. Throughout history, really risky work has tended to be forced upon the poor or enslaved, or people in prison – and women. Working animals, too, have been in danger of death or injury. So, let's start this chapter as safely as possible with four fearful facts.



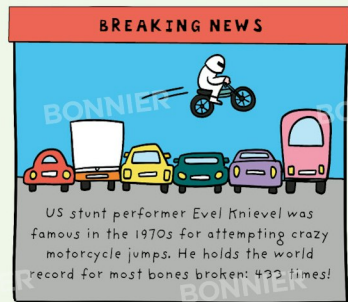
### WORLD'S RISKIEST DISHES

Ancient Roman emperors made food tasters check their meals weren't poisoned. Despite this, Emperor Claudius died from poisoned mushrooms in 54 BCE.



### NO LAUGHING MATTER

Hat-making might sound safe, but 200 years ago the toxic chemicals used made people ill, hence the Mad Hatter in Alice in Wonderland.



### BREAKING NEWS

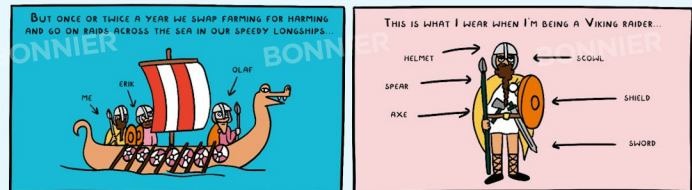
US stunt performer Evel Knievel was famous in the 1970s for attempting crazy motorcycle jumps. He holds the world record for most bones broken: 433 times!



### BIOLOGY LESSON

Teaching is a safe profession, though there are occasional surprises. In 2022, a very cross cougar turned up in the toilets of a Brazilian school!

# NORSE FARMER



# PIRATE



# THE DAY JOB

## ZAZEL

Hello! Can you imagine getting fired every day? Well, that's what happened to me as the world's first human cannonball. I was shot out of a giant cannon, sometimes twice a day, for entertainment!



### HUMAN CANNONBALL



NAME: ZAZEL  
RATIONALITY: BRITISH  
OCCUPATION: HUMAN CANNONBALL

My stage name was 'Zazel', but my real name is Rossa Matilda Richter. I was born in London in 1860, and was tightrope-walking at the age of six. Life really was a circus!

In 1877, aged 17, my career took a new direction – upwards! A showman calling himself 'The Great Farini' (real name Bill Hunt!) shot me 20 m across a stage to the delight of audiences. Business boomed!

The newspapers called me the 'Miss who was a Missile!' and there were even songs written about me. I was a star! A shooting star!

The cannon actually used a hidden spring to fire me into the air, not explosives, but it was still very dangerous. One time the safety net broke and I hit the ground hard. I needed the next day to recover!

I continued as a cannonball for a while, then went back to my tightrope-walking.

I also showed how you might use safety nets to escape from burning buildings by jumping out of high windows!

Eventually, there were public protests about the act, saying it wasn't right to be firing a child from a cannon for fun. Really? So, I just joined a circus in America instead.

I PROTEST!

ME TOO!

STOP THIS NOW!  
BAN ZAZEL!

I retired after a bad accident, but I don't regret my high-flying career. You could say 'I had a ball!' Bye!

# ESCAPOLOGIST

Hi! I am the great Harry Houdini. The Handcuff King, and I can escape from any box.



See?  
Gone!

JUST MY LITTLE JOKE - BUT I AM THE MOST FAMOUS ESCAPE ARTIST THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN...

WHY IS THAT STRANGE GUY HANGING AROUND!

See? I did it again! BUT GETTING OUT OF A STRAITJACKET IS FAIRLY EASY...



SO, I USED TO DO IT HANGING FROM A SKYSCRAPER TO HUGE CROWDS BELOW.

GUH!

NOOS NMOB 30 TTI!

I WAS BORN ERICH WEISZ IN HUNGARY IN 1874.

HMM, SOON ESCAPE FROM THIS!

MY FAMILY MOVED TO THE USA, WHERE I STARTED OUT AS A 50-SO MUSICIAN.

BOOI GET OFF!

BETTER MAKE MYSELF DISAPPEAR!

BUT I BECAME FAMOUS FOR DEATH-DEFYING ESCAPE TRICKS...

NAILED INTO A CRATE THROWN INTO A RIVER

SEALED INTO A GIANT METAL CHURN

UPSIDE DOWN IN A WATER FILLED TANK

KEY TO THIS WAS BEING ABLE TO HOLD MY BREATH FOR OVER THREE MINUTES - PLUS THE ODD WELL-HIDDEN KEY!

BUT SOME TRICKS WENT WRONG. LIKE THE TIME IN 1915 WHEN I WAS BURIED ALIVE AND ALMOST DIED...

I THINK HE NEEDS A HAND

ER?

I SURVIVED ALL THOSE STUNTS BUT DIED OF AN ILLNESS IN 1926.

HMM, NOT SURE I CAN ESCAPE THIS TIME

## JUST THE JOB: HOW DARE YOU?

### IN THE BALANCE

Niagara Falls, the giant waterfall between the USA and Canada, is a magnet for professional daredevils. In 1859, French acrobat Charles Blondin was the first person to tightrope walk across the gorge. He also went over on stilts and pushing a wheelbarrow!

### BASKET WORK

Italian Maria Spelterini is the only woman to have tightrope walked the Falls. In 1876, she crossed blindfolded, and once with her feet in baskets!

### BARREL OF FUN

In 1904, American Annie Edson Taylor rode the Falls in a large oak barrel and, amazingly, survived the 50-m drop. She was 63 - and a former schoolteacher!

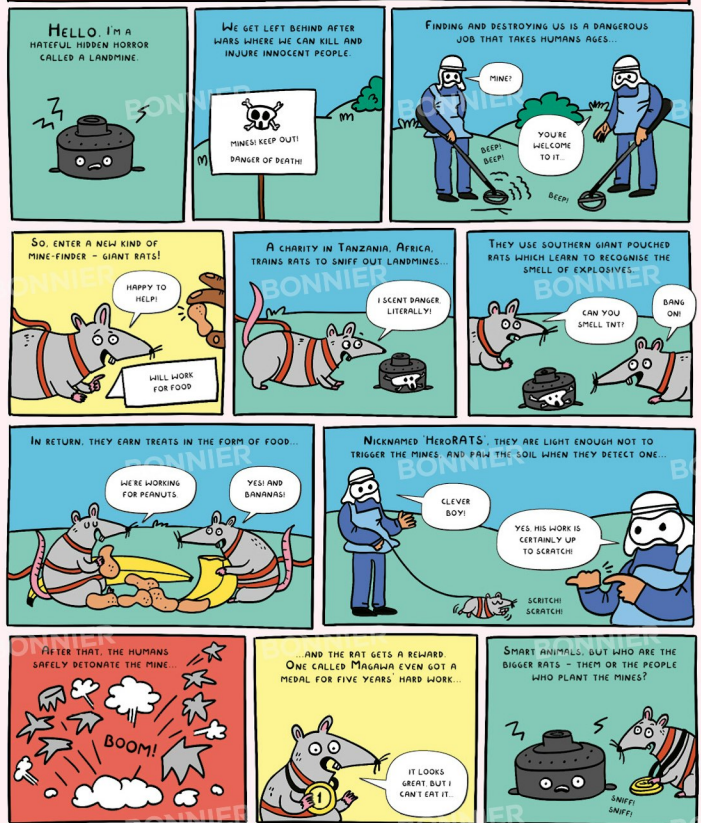
### CROSS COUNTRY

Stunts at the Falls were banned after several tragic accidents. However, in 2012 American Nik Wallenda was allowed to attempt the first wire-walk for 116 years. He took along his passport to show on the Canadian side.

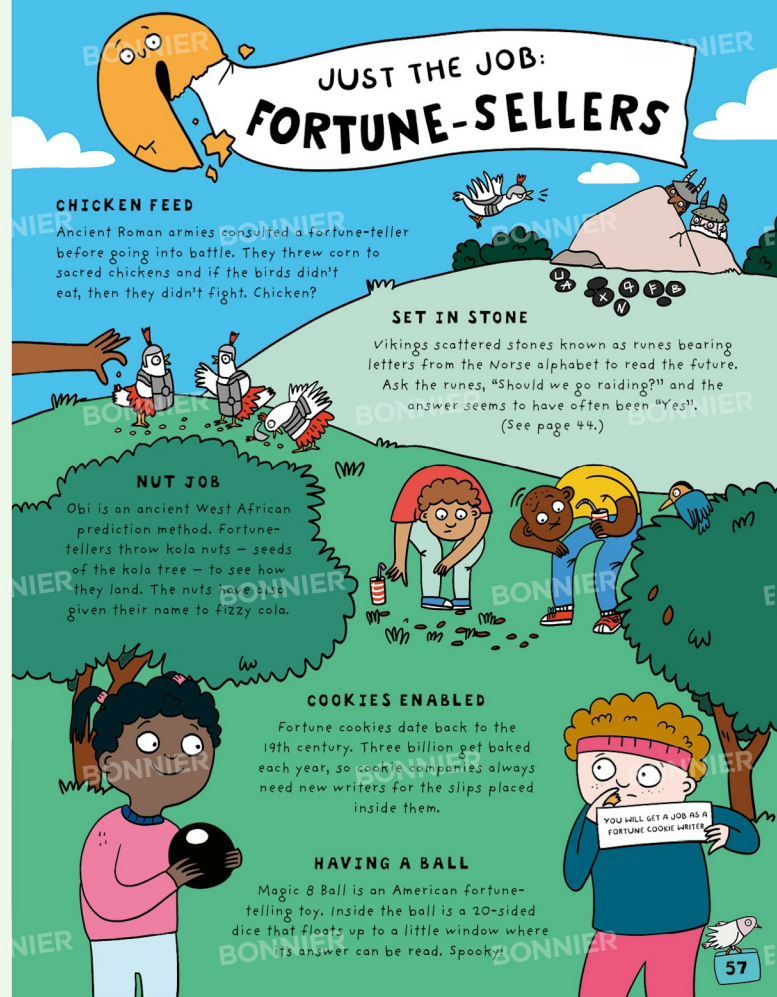
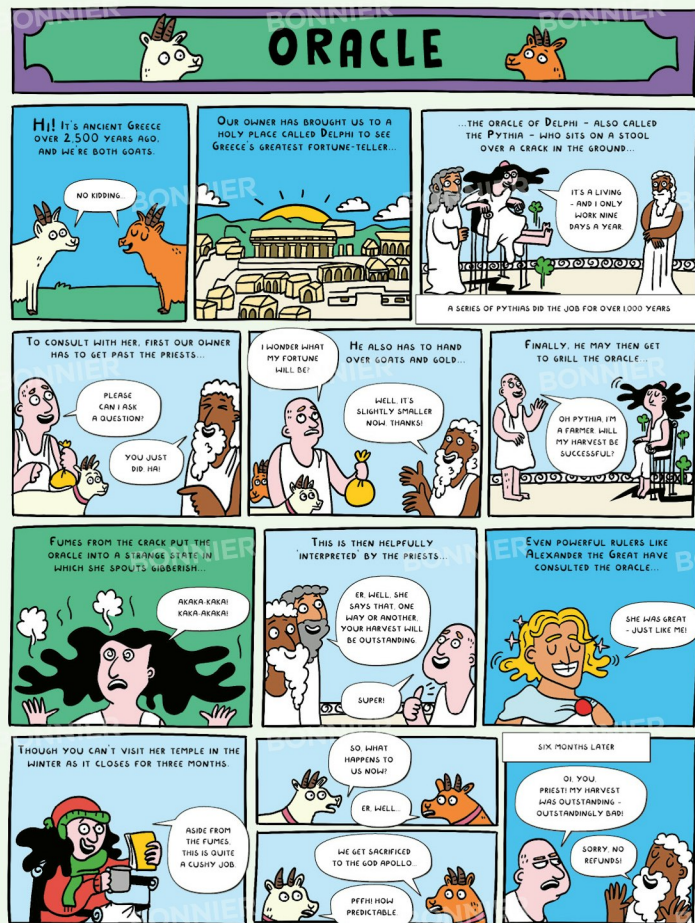
### BOUNCING BACK

Canadian Jean Lussier went over the Falls in a giant inflatable rubber ball in 1920. He then made a living selling pieces of it to tourists.

# MINE-FINDING RAT







# THE DAY JOB

## CHARLATAN



NAME: JAMES RANDI  
NATIONALITY: CANADIAN/AMERICAN  
OCCUPATION: CHARLATAN

## JAMES RANDI

Hi! I'm James Randi, and I'm a **charlatan** – a word for a cheat or trickster. I can't work any wonders, so what am I doing here? Good question! Always ask questions!

I was born Randall James Hamilton Zwenge in Canada in 1928. I shortened it to James Randi but I was better known as The Amazing Randi! Let me explain...

When I was a teenager, I had a bad accident and was bed-bound for a year, so I read lots of books about magic. One of my heroes was the Great Houdini (see page 50). Later, I copied some of his tricks!



Anyway, I recovered and at 17 started work as a magician, reading people's minds on stage.

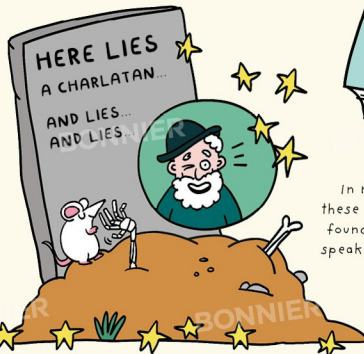


Yes, it was just a trick, but my knowledge meant I could challenge others who pretended they did it for real!

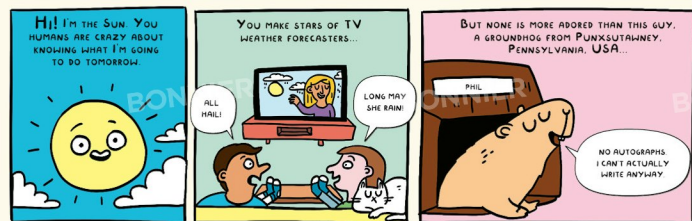
So, I set out to expose those crooks who made money from gullible people by pretending to have paranormal powers. For example, I showed that so-called 'psychic surgery' was just a mere magic trick.



In my life, I made enemies from trapping these tricksters, and died aged 92, not having found anyone who could really read minds or speak from beyond the grave. Seems I'm doing that myself now! But remember, I'm a charlatan! Bye!



# PROGNOSTICATOR



# JUST THE JOB: ANIMAL MAGIC

## BIRD BRAINS

India is home to parrot astrologers – roadside fortune-tellers who use green parakeets to choose tarot cards for paying customers. The bird then gets a treat. That is lucky!

## MIRACLE MOLLUSC

Paul the Psychic Octopus is the most famous of many animals that have supposedly predicted World Cup football match results by selecting food. He said Spain would win the 2010 final. They did!

## CAT FLAP

In 2017, a cat called Charles Utkins made world news. His Russian owner said the cat had used mind control to make him buy fish and sausages at 5 a.m.

## SNAKES ALIVE!

In China, scientists are studying the use of snakes to predict earthquakes. The sensitive serpents slither off to safety ahead of them hitting.

## FLIGHT OF FANCY

In ancient Rome, an augur told the future by watching birds in the sky. The pooing pigeon above him predicts he is in for some bad luck.





The human race: the name says it all, really. People are always trying to outdo each other. In the past, the person who could throw a spear the farthest would have been the most valuable hunter. Nowadays it's the superstars of track and field who get the gold medals. In this chapter, we look at sports, some rather risky, beginning with four world-class facts.

### WORLD'S MOST POPULAR SPORT



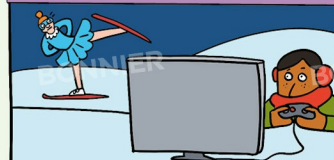
Association football – known as football, for short – has over 4 billion fans across the planet. In fact, the planet is even football-shaped!

### OLDEST PRO-ATHLETE

Polish veteran Stanislaw Kowalski became the world's oldest professional competitor in 2014 for the 100 metres, discus and shot put. He was 104 years old, making all his results world records!



### ODDEST OLYMPIC EVENTS



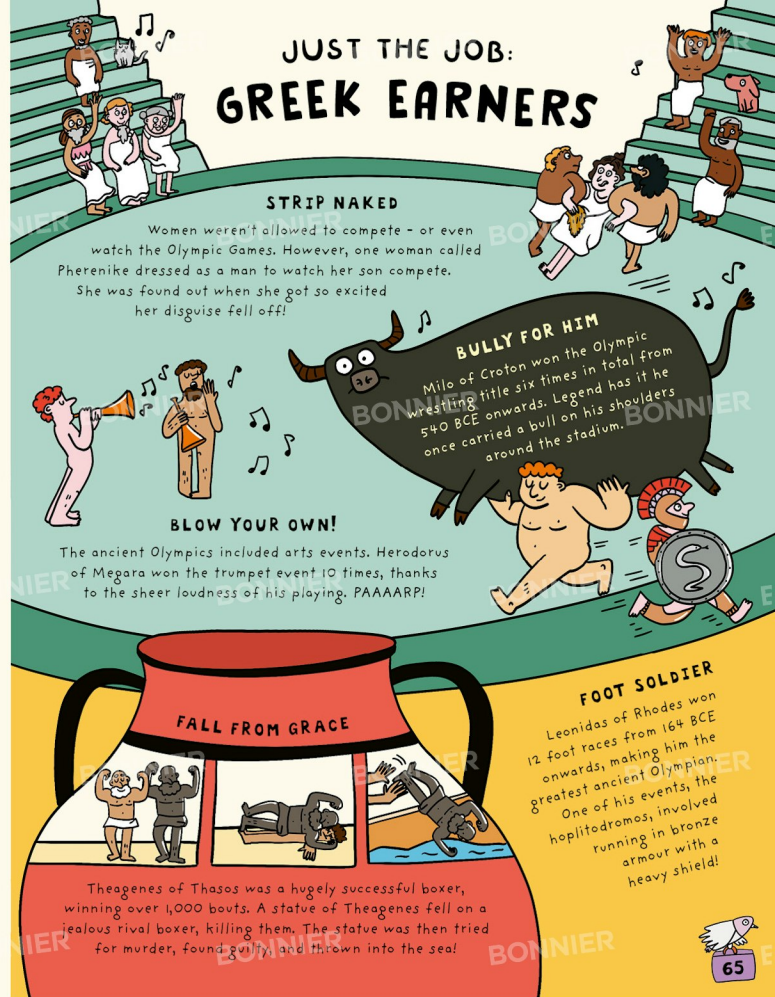
Since the modern Games began in 1896, it has included tug of war, ballooning, rope-climbing, and ski-ballet. Video-gamers hope to compete in the future!

### MOST SUCCESSFUL PARALYMPIAN



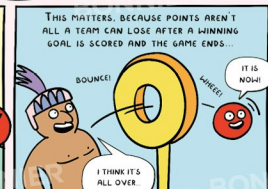
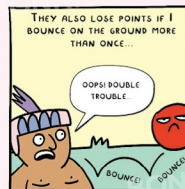
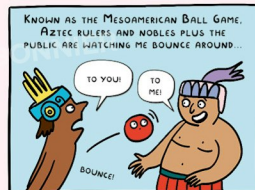
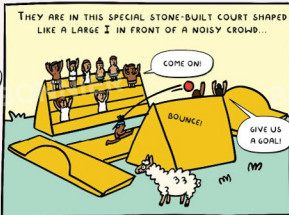
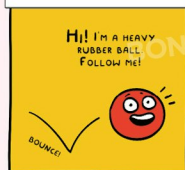
Blind American swimmer Trischa Zorn-Hudson won 55 medals across seven Paralympic Games from 1980 onwards, 41 of them gold. Her record will probably never be beaten!

# MARTIAL ARTIST



# AZTEC BALL GAME PLAYER

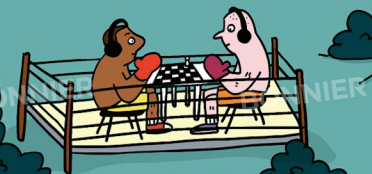
OVER 500 YEARS AGO IN THE AZTEC EMPIRE CAPITAL OF TENOCHTITLAN NOW IN MODERN MEXICO...



# JUST THE JOB! INJURY TIME

## CHEESE ROLL

Cheese-rolling is a wild and dangerous sport which happens every year at Cooper's Hill in Gloucestershire, UK. People chase a wheel of cheese down a steep hill. The first to the bottom wins the cheese, even though most end up with bumps and bruises!



As its name suggests, chessboxing is a mix of chess and boxing, originally invented for a comic book story. Players switch between a boxing bout in the ring and an ongoing chess match on a table placed alongside.

**SNOW JOKE!**

Snowboarding is one of the most dangerous sports in the modern Olympics. To add extra thrills, you can slide down the slopes of Mauna Kea, a super-high snow-capped volcano in Hawaii!

## IRON MAN

Extreme ironing was invented by a bored British mountaineer, Phil Shaw, in 1997. He had shirts to iron but preferred to spend his time rock climbing, so he combined the two!



Kabaddi is hugely popular in Asia. Two teams face off on a hard court while individual players race forward to tag their opponents before being tackled to the ground in a punishing pile-on.

# THE DAY JOB

## FOOTBALLER



NAME LILY PARR  
NATIONALITY BRITISH  
OCCUPATION FOOTBALLER

## LILY PARR

Hello! Want to know which football player scored almost 1,000 goals in their 30-year career? Well, it's me – Lily Parr. Back of the net!

I was born in a small town, called St Helens, in the north of England in 1905, but there was nothing small about me! I grew 1.8 m tall and being big, I could soon match my older brothers at football and rugby!



Back then, men were away fighting in World War I, so the factory formed the female football team to entertain people. Under captain Alice Kell, their matches raised huge sums for charity. And players got paid!

Aged 14, I started playing football for a local women's team, but was poached to play for a local factory's female team called the Dick, Kerr Ladies. Begun in 1917, they soon became world-famous.



BOY! US GIRLS WERE GOOD!

We played men's teams, and beat them too!



ME IN ACTION

In 1920, we played the first women's international match against a team from France – and beat them: 2-0!

However, we proved too popular. The men who ran football claimed it was 'unsuitable for females' and banned us from their pitches in 1921. Well, like one of my shots, we weren't that easily stopped!

We played on any field we could find, and even toured the USA in 1922. Eventually, the team was renamed Preston Ladies, and I played for them until 1951, running up a tally of 986 goals!

I met my partner Mary while working as a nurse, and lived to see the ban on women's football finally lifted in 1971. In fact, I'm now considered a football legend, and they made a statue of me! She shoots, she scores!



THE TEAM IN 1921



# COSTUME DRAMA

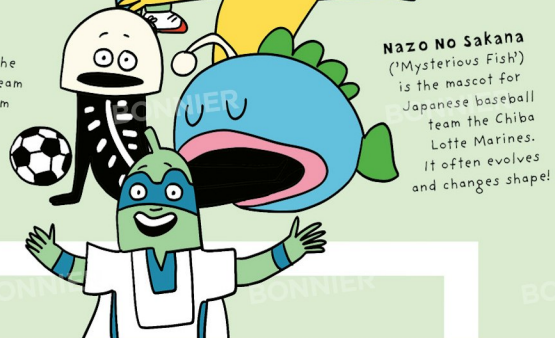
Lots of jobs involve special workwear, such as firefighters, nurses and the police. The people to the extreme, adding to the fun and excitement. Fancy fitting into any of these outfits?

The mascot for the 2023 Women's Football World Cup in Australia and New Zealand was a penguin called Tazuni. Lily Parr would be pleased!



Olly, a furry version of a rare olive Ridley turtle, is the mascot for all sports events in Odisha, India, including the 2023 Hockey World Cup.

The mascot of the Spanish football team CD Leganes is a 2-m tall pickle known as the cucumber Knight. Cool!!



Bouncer, a big green ball with purple shades, was chosen as the mascot for the Caribbean Cricket Premier League.

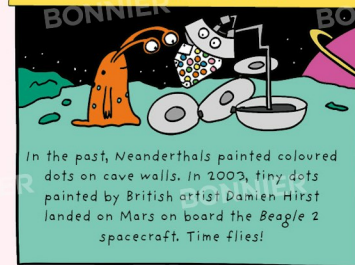
Scottish football side Partick Thistle has a scary sun-shaped mascot called Kingsley. Luckily, fans have taken a shine to him!

Nazo No Sakana ('Mysterious Fish') is the mascot for Japanese baseball team the Chiba Lotte Marines. It often evolves and changes shape!

# ARTS WORK

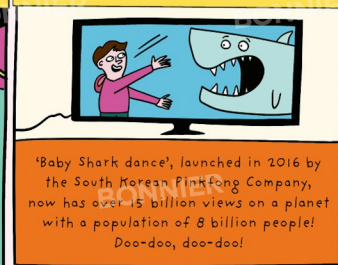
Humans have been singing, dancing, painting and creating other forms of art for thousands of years – even our relatives, the Neanderthals, decorated caves with depictions of animals. Today, the arts is a huge industry from poetry and drama to music, TV, films and video games. In this chapter, human creativity takes centre stage, with four fab facts as our opening acts.

## DOTS TO SPACE SPOTS!



In the past, Neanderthals painted coloured dots on cave walls. In 2003, tiny dots painted by British artist Damien Hirst landed on Mars on board the Beagle 2 spacecraft. Time flies!

## MOST WATCHED MUSIC VIDEO



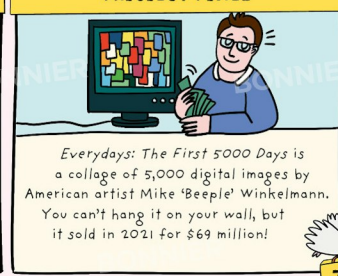
'Baby Shark dance', launched in 2016 by the South Korean Pinkfong Company, now has over 15 billion views on a planet with a population of 8 billion people! Doo-doo, doo-doo!

## BEST-SELLING CHILDREN'S BOOK



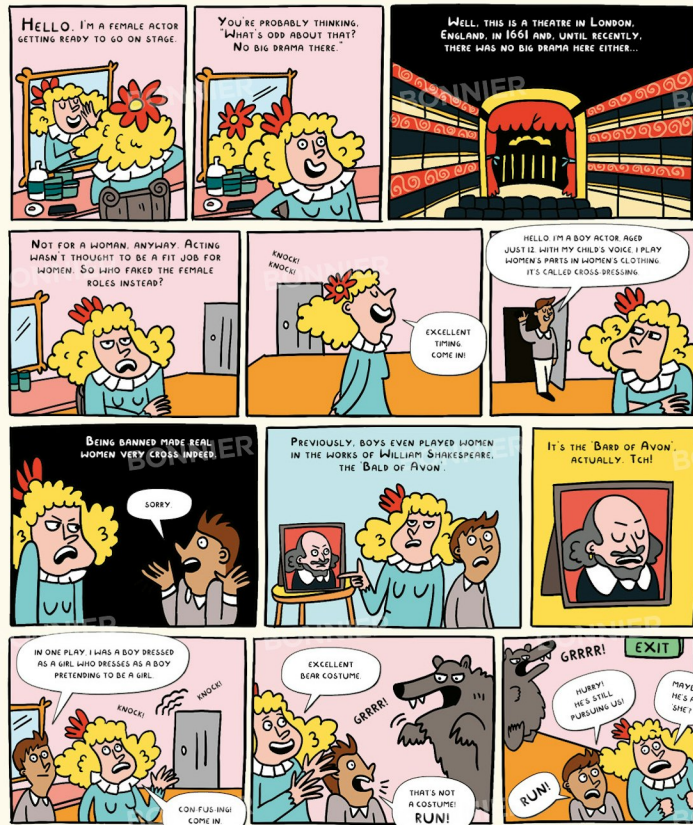
Not Harry Potter, but *The Little Prince* by French aristocrat Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Since 1943, this tale of a crashed pilot and a golden-haired boy who lives on an asteroid has sold over 200 million copies.

## PRICIEST PIXEL



*Everydays: The First 5000 Days* is a collage of 5,000 digital images by American artist Mike 'Beepie' Winkelmann. You can't hang it on your wall, but it sold in 2021 for \$69 million!

# ACTOR



## JUST THE JOB: ACT ON IT!

### TRADING PLACES

In Britain, Christmas pantomimes are funny family shows where the top female role of 'Dame' is played by a man in a crazy costume, while a woman plays the lead part of 'Principal Boy'. Pairs of actors also pretend to be comedy cows and horses!

### DEAD CLEVER

Many TV shows and films need someone to play a corpse. Lying still without breathing or blinking is a special skill – one that US actor Chuck Lamb specialised in since 2005 as the 'Dead Body Guy'!

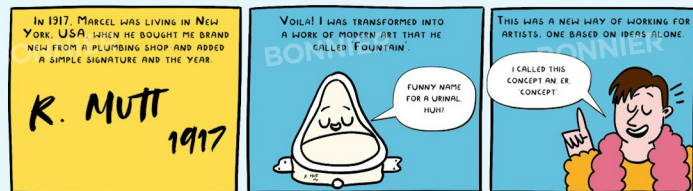
### LADDIE FETCH HELP!

Clever animation and puppets are now often used in films instead of actual living animal actors as training can be very expensive. Lassie, perhaps the most famous female film dog ever, was originally played by a male dog called Pal!

### THE NEXT STAGE?

A science museum in Krakow, Poland, puts on short plays performed by a cast of robots known as RoboThespians, after Thespis, a famous ancient Greek actor. Will robots one day put actors out of work?

# MODERN ARTIST



MARCEL NAMED HIS CREATIONS 'READYMADES' - FOUND OR BOUGHT OBJECTS, OFTEN LEFT UNCHANGED BUT WITH A NEW WAY OF THINKING ABOUT THEM...

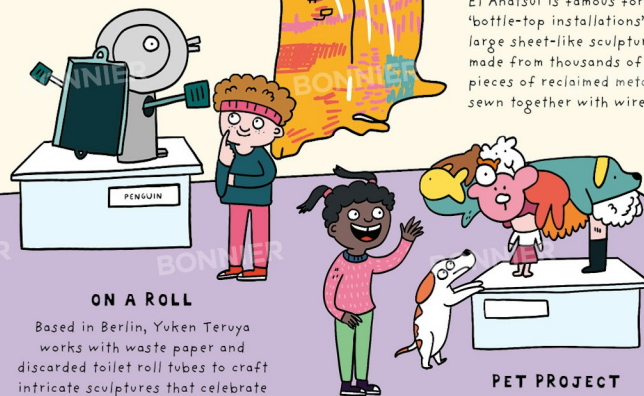


### TOP DRAWER

Born in Yokohama, Japan, sculptor Sayaka Ganz combines thrown-away household utensils such as spoons and spatulas to create amazing models of animals in action.

### METAL WORKER

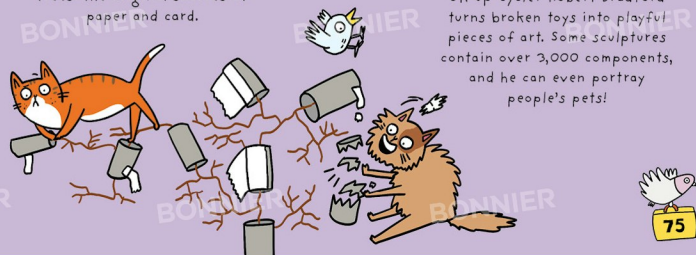
Ghanaian-born artist El Anatsui is famous for his 'bottle-top installations' - large sheet-like sculptures made from thousands of small pieces of reclaimed metal sewn together with wire.



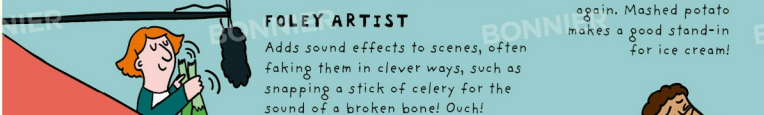
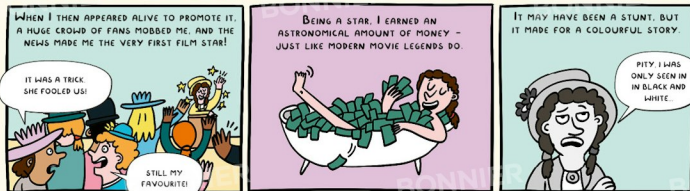
Based in Berlin, Yuken Teruya works with waste paper and discarded toilet roll tubes to craft intricate sculptures that celebrate trees: the original sources of paper and card.

### PET PROJECT

UK up-cycler Robert Bradford turns broken toys into playful pieces of art. Some sculptures contain over 3,000 components, and he can even portray people's pets!



# FILM STAR



# THE DAY JOB

## BAD POET



NAME: WILLIAM MCGONAGALL  
NATIONALITY: SCOTTISH  
OCCUPATION: BAD POET

READ THIS STORY  
ALoud. THE POET IN  
YOU WILL BE PROUD!

## WILLIAM MCGONAGALL

I am the great William McGonagall, Scottish poet and tragedian. Though people who read my verses often considered me a comedian. Some said my poems did not scan well nor have a proper rhythm, but I took time to make them rhyme, so I would have an argument with 'em.

I was born in Scotland, or possibly in Ireland, in 1825. (There is some confusion over the country, but – hooray! – I was alive.) My father was a weaver in the beautiful Scottish city of Dundee and that was the job I did myself after he taught his trade to me.

But in the historic year of 1877, I left my weaving loom behind, after an urge to become a poet suddenly entered my mind. So, henceforth, I penned dramatic verses about all sorts of tragic tales including collapsing railway bridges and the deaths of monster whales.

Instead, mistakenly, one stormy December day in the year of 1878, I walked 60 miles from Dundee to the Queen's castle on her big Scottish estate. There, I was told she already had a famous poet called Alfred, Lord Tennyson. So, I returned home again past rabbits and wild deer (whose meat we know as venison).

To make a living, I later got a job performing my poems in a circus ring, while the audience threw eggs and vegetables, or whatever they had to fling. Sadly, this proved so popular and drew such a noisy crowd, that eventually the local lawmakers said it could not be allowed.

And so, I finished my poetry career relying on the kindness of friends, who recorded my verses for posterity in a book called *Poetic Gems*. So, remember this: some people achieve fame by being best or the first, but I, the great poet McGonagall, did it simply by being the worst!



# BONNIE HANDIWORK

Puppetry is a form of theatre that was common in many ancient cultures across the world, and is still performed today. Here are some examples from countries with a hand in keeping it alive!



Wayang is a form of puppet theatre from the Indonesian island of Java. Rodded flat leather puppets cast shadows onto a white linen screen.

**Yaya coulilaly** is a famous performer from Mali, West Africa – keeping alive an ancient tribal tradition. He has hundreds of puppets!



**Punch and Judy** is an old-fashioned British entertainment dating back to the 17th century. Puppeteers call themselves 'professors'.



**Bunraku** is a traditional Japanese show with puppets operated by three people, often cloaked and hidden from view!




In Vietnam, audiences can enjoy **traditional tales** featuring puppets that perform scenes in water, including fishing, rice planting and duck herding.



# CHAPTER 8 DIRTY WORK


"It's a dirty job, but someone's got to do it" is a popular saying – just bad luck if that person is **YOU**. Jobs involving poo, wee and other distasteful wastes are frequently frowned upon, though they can be vital and even well paid. This chapter holds its nose and peers from a distance at some of history's most horrible occupations, beginning with four foul facts.

### THAR SHE BLOWS!



Canadian marine biologist Justine Hudson collects snot sprayed from the blowholes of Beluga whales. She scoops it from the sea to examine later in her laboratory.

### WORLD'S BIGGEST BLOCKAGE?



In 2017, a 250-m long mass of old cooking fat and disposable nappies was cut free from London's sewers. The 'fatberg' took nine weeks to remove, and then went on display in a museum!

### SORRY TO BRING THIS UP...



The ancient Romans had puke-collectors at banquets to collect vomit from guests who had eaten too much. Today, theme parks employ staff to clear the vomit from below rollercoaster rides. Don't look up! (And wear a hat...)

### GET A WIGGLE ON!

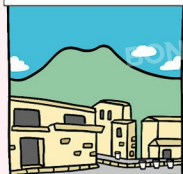


Maggot farming is a smelly business but might help save the planet. In South Africa, food and farm waste is turned into millions of maggots (fly larvae) that can be fed to chickens instead of ground-up fish taken from the sea.

# FULLER



WELCOME TO THE ROMAN CITY OF POMPEII IN 79 CE...



I'M A POT PLACED IN A PUBLIC STREET. AND, NO, IT'S NOT RAINING...



BIT OF PRIVACY HERE PLEASE!



THERE ARE LOTS OF POTS LIKE ME, FULL OF PEE, ALL OVER POMPEII...



THAT'S BECAUSE THIS MAN'S JOB RELIES ON A STEADY STREAM OF URINE...



FOR ME IT'S A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!

HE IS A FULLER - A PERSON WITH A LAUNDRY THAT WASHES WOOLEN TOUGS IN WEE



FIRST IN GOES THE WEE, THEN THE TOUGS AND ME!



THE JOB ISN'T SIMPLY HANDS-ON - YOU USE YOUR FEET TOO!

SOMETIMES SEVERAL PEOPLE TRAMPLE ON A TUB FULL OF TOUGS TOGETHER, SINGING WHILE THEY WORK...



IT'S WALKING IN URINE, WHOA!

AND DON'T IT FEEL GOOD!

SMELLS AWFUL, THOUGH.

THERE ARE CHEMICALS IN URINE THAT ACT LIKE A BLEACH TO MAKE THE WOOL WHITER. THAT'S WHY ROMANS USE IT AS A MOUTHWASH TOO...



JUST REMEMBER TO SPIT IT OUT!

(DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME!)

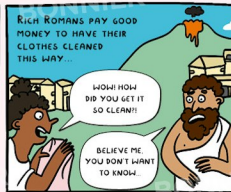
AFTER BEING THOROUGHLY WASHED IN WEE, THE FULLER RINGS THE TOUGS IN CLEAN WATER AND HANGS THEM OUT TO DRY...



AFTER THAT, MY FEET ARE KILLING ME...

THEY SMELL PRETTY DEADLY TOO!

RICH ROMANS PAY GOOD MONEY TO HAVE THEIR CLOTHES CLEANED THIS WAY...



HOW! HOW DID YOU GET IT SO CLEAN!

BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW!

LATER...



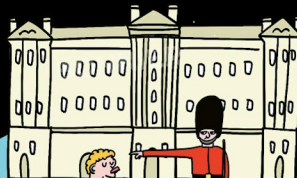
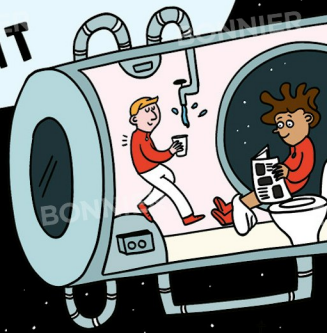
OH NO! RASH ALL OVER MY NICE CLEAN TOUG!

THAT'S THE LEAST OF YOUR PROBLEMS, FRANKLY.

## JUST THE JOB: PEE FOR PROFIT

### TO BOLDLY GO

Urine is very valuable in space. If you fancy being an astronaut on the orbiting International Space Station, bear in mind the job involves drinking clean water recycled from the crew's wee by a clever machine. Cheers!



### THE SOILS OF WAR

In 17th-century Europe, chemicals in wee were vital in making gunpowder. So-called 'saltpetre men' had the power to harvest wee-soaked soil from under the floors of farms and churches, as people often wet themselves during super-long sermons.



I REALLY NEED THE TOILET.

I JUST WENT INSIDE!

### DYEING FOR A WEE?

Wood is a plant once used to produce a bright blue dye. Making it involved rotting leaves in urine, producing a smell so bad English queen Elizabeth I banned wood-dyers from working near her palaces!

### URINE LUCK?

From Roman times and earlier, vrimancers were fortune-tellers that predicted your future from bubbles in a bowl of wee. Big bubbles meant money coming in, small bubbles spelled troubles!



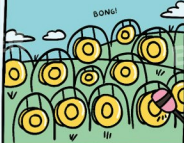
# GONG FARMER



LONDON, ENGLAND,  
IN THE 18TH CENTURY.

HELLO, I'M  
A GONG FARMER.  
AND I KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE THINKING.

SOMETHING LIKE THIS?



SABLY, THAT'S WRONG. 'GONG' IS ANOTHER  
WORD FOR HUMAN POO. AND I DON'T FARM IT.  
I SHIFT IT WITH A SHOVEL.

THOUGH I SAY IT  
MYSELF, I'M A SUPER-  
SHIFT SHIFTER.



RIGHT NOW, I AM LITERALLY  
UP TO MY NECK IN WORK.

IT'S A PILE OF  
POO, THIS JOB!



I'M STOOD IN A CESSPIST - A BIG HOLE  
IN THE GROUND UNDER AN OUTSIDE  
TOILET. FULL OF THE POO PEOPLE GO.

GO AWAY! I'M  
BUSY IN HERE!

ME TOO!



WHEN IT FILLS UP, THE OWNER  
PAYS ME TO PUT THE POO INTO  
BUCKETS, WHICH MY ASSISTANT  
REMOVES WITH A ROPE.

WHEN  
THEY'RE  
FULL, I PULL!



WE WORK IN DARKNESS THROUGH THE  
NIGHT SO PEOPLE CAN'T SEE US.

THE LAW SAYS  
WE HAVE TO

THEY CAN  
STILL SMELL  
US THOUGH.



THE LAW ALSO INSISTS WE GET RID  
OF THE POO OUTSIDE THE CITY.

WE'RE OFF  
TO PUMP  
THESE DUMPS!

HA!



USUALLY, WE SELL IT TO  
FARMERS AS FERTILISER.

THIS STUFF  
IS GREAT ON  
STRAW-BERRIES!

I PUT SUGAR  
ON PINE.



THE LAW ALSO SAYS WE CAN'T LIVE  
IN THE SMART PARTS OF THE CITY.

WE DON'T WANT  
YOUR SORT  
AROUND HERE.

AT LEAST, NOT  
UNTIL OUR POO  
NEEDS REMOVING.



IF WE BREAK THESE LAWS,  
PEOPLE WILL KICK UP A  
BIGGER STINK THAN THE  
ONE IN HERE.



BUT, AS NO ONE ELSE WANTS THE  
JOB, WE GET WELL PAID FOR IT.

I'M  
FILTHY  
RICH!



## JUST THE JOB: WHAT A WASTE!

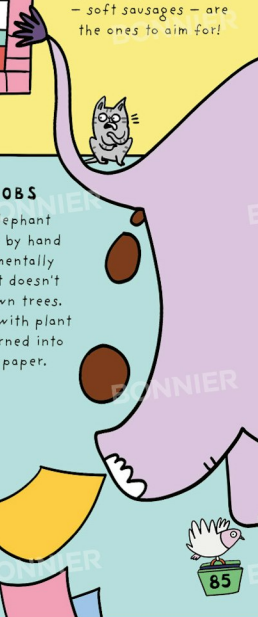
### ROYAL FLUSH

Groom of the stool was once one of the most privileged positions in the English royal court, especially in Tudor times. It involved helping the king go to the toilet in a bowl hidden inside a fabric-covered stool, which is why today poos are also called stools.



### OFF THE SCALE

In medicine, poos are clues to a person's health. Doctors worldwide use the Bristol Stool Scale chart to describe them, from Type 1 (tiny dry lumps) to Type 7 (runny liquid). Types 3 and 4 - soft sausages - are the ones to aim for!



### PURE LUCK

In Victorian London, pure-finders walked the streets, picked up dog poo with their bare hands and popped it into lidded buckets. It was sold to be used in softening leather used for book covers. (Don't worry! This book uses card!)



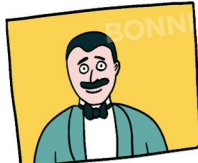
### JUMBO JOBS

In Thailand, elephant dung is collected by hand to make environmentally friendly paper that doesn't involve cutting down trees. The poo is packed with plant fibres that are turned into colourful craft paper.



# THE DAY JOB

## FLATULIST



NAME JOSEPH PUJOL  
NATIONALITY FRENCH  
OCCUPATION FLATULIST

## JOSEPH PUJOL

**Bonjour.** My name is Joseph Pujol, and I was born in the French coastal town of Marseille in 1857. I started out as a baker, but I became famous as a flatulist: someone who farts for a living!

It sounds crazy, but while serving a spell in the army I discovered I could pass gas from my rear and make different noises using my muscles, such as the purr of a bugle or rifle shots. My fellow soldiers thought it hilarious, so on returning home I started to perfect the art of the fart.

Back at the bakery, I practised while serving customers. My repertoire grew to include squeaky boots, various musical instruments, cannon-fire and a thunderstorm. Everyone laughed, so I made a break with baking and took my wind on stage!



I toured local music halls as 'Le Pétomane', which means 'The Farting Maniac'. Dressed smartly (I think one should look smart to fart), I let rip with my many impressive impressions.

Audiences loved it, cheering and laughing until tears rolled down their cheeks (the ones on their faces, I mean!).



At this point, I should explain that though I was farting furiously and ferociously, my act did not stink. In fact, I was able to simply move clean air in and out of my posterior at will. Indeed, I could expel it with enough force to blow out a candle – a highlight of my performance!

Anyway, in 1892 I became a star at the Moulin Rouge, the world-famous musical theatre in Paris. People flocked to see me, and I bent over backwards to entertain them. By now my act included farmyard animal noises as well as playing a small flute and an ocarina by fart power alone!

My success took me all over the world, and made me very rich. I bought a huge house, married and raised ten children. However, I stopped performing in 1914 at the outbreak of World War I and went back to baking. Fancy an 'air biscuit', anyone?

PAAARP!



# WORLD OF WONDERS

## YOU HAD ONE JOB...

The world of work is not always wonderful. People are human (most of them), and they can – and will – make mistakes. Here are some of recent history's most famous fails.



### ART FAILURE

French artist Henri Matisse created collages from cut paper towards the end of his career. One work, *Le Bateau*, was shown upside down by New York's Museum of Modern Art for 47 days in 1961 before a visitor spotted the mistake!



### THE FARCE IS WITH YOU

Imagine acting in one of the most famous movies ever – and clumsily bumping your head on a door frame. That's what actor Laurie Goode did playing a Stormtrooper in 1977's sci-fi epic, *Star Wars* – Episode IV: *A New Hope*. He claimed tummy trouble made him do it!

### NOT SO FAB FOUR

The Beatles, a band from the UK, are the most successful pop group ever, having sold over 290 million records. However, in January 1962, a boss at the Decca recording company turned down the chance to sign them up, saying: 'The Beatles have no future in show business.' Oops!



### ASLEEP ON THE JOB

In 2013, a German bank clerk tried to transfer 64.20 euros to a customer's account, but fell asleep with their finger on a single key of their computer, the number '2'. As a result, they instead transferred 222,222,222.22 euros! The dozy mistake went unspotted for hours!

### CAT-ASTROPHE!

In 2021, Texas lawyer Rod Ponton was on an important video call to an American courthouse, unaware that a filter on his computer had swapped his face for a fluffy white kitten with goo-goo eyes. A recording of his 'Lawyer Cat' chat went viral!



### HOLY MOLY!

In 2020, Italian priest Paolo Longo also fell foul of video filters. Live-streaming a service for stuck-at-home worshippers, he was turned into a wizard with a pointy hat, a black-and-white cat, and also grew a bright pink moustache. Heavens!



### NOT SO WIZARD

Can you imagine rejecting the best-selling series of books ever? Twelve publishers turned down *Harry Potter* before one – Bloomsbury – finally took it on. Even then, author J.K. Rowling was told, 'You'll never make any money out of children's books, Jo.' Expelliarmus!

### SLICE OF LIFE

'The icing on the cake' can mean something extra-special. However, photos of crazily iced cakes are an internet celebration of epic failures, often involving simple misunderstandings. For example: Bakery: 'Want anything written on top?' Customer: 'Nothing, thank you'. End result: the words 'Nothing, thank you' piped across it!



# EARLY STARTERS

Do you consider yourself lucky to go to school? The answer may depend on how tasty your school dinners, but for much of human history, most children went to work from an early age. Often these jobs were dirty, dangerous and sometimes deadly. As this last chapter shows, there have been lots of horrible jobs for juniors in the past as well as some wonderful ways to make a living today. Which of these positions would you pick?

## CROSSING SWEEPER

Horses filled the streets of big cities before motor cars, and those same horses then filled the streets with their poo. Gangs of poor children armed with brooms cleared poo from the paths of smartly dressed people in return for pennies.



## WHIPPING BOY

Hard to believe, but it is said that English royal princes once had a boy who sat by them in lessons and took a beating from the teacher on their behalf if they made a mistake. To whip the future king would be considered treason.

## MUDLARK

It might sound fun, but this was an awful occupation. In Victorian London, poor children scavenged in the mud of the river Thames in the hope of finding things they might sell, even though the river was basically a big open sewer.

## CLIMBING BOY

In the 19th century, chimney sweeps across Europe employed 'climbing boys' to sweep soot from inside the narrowest parts of chimneys. Little better than slaves, many died from their awful working conditions.



## MONARCH

Tutankhamen became an Egyptian pharaoh at age nine. In 1632, Christina was made queen of Sweden, aged six. In 1784, a 10-year-old girl called Jadwiga was crowned KING of Poland. Go figure!



## EMPEROR

Two-year-old Puyi became the last emperor of Imperial China in 1908. As supreme ruler, he was both super spoilt and incredibly cruel: beating servants and having other people blow on his soup to cool it for him.



## POP IDOL

South Korean K-pop is the world's fastest-growing music scene, with bands such as BTS, Twice and Blackpink now known all over the globe. K-pop stars are discovered as teenagers and taught the moves that make them famous.



## FILM STAR

The Harry Potter films made stars of many young actors, including Emma 'Hermione' Watson. She remains one of the world's highest-earning actresses. Better still, she got turned into action figures!



## SOCIAL MEDIA STAR

Teenage vloggers (video-bloggers) on video-sharing platforms such as Instagram and YouTube can have a huge influence on their audiences. In 2016, 13-year-old American JoJo Siwa had girls around the world copying her hair bows!

To return to the opening question, school is a great start in life. Sadly, many children around the world are still denied the chance, and have to work to help their families, some doing jobs as horrid as the worst ones shown here. Try and remember that next time your teacher sets you homework!

# CAREER PATH

As you'll have read, the world of work has offered a wide range of jobs throughout history. Follow the questions below to see what occupation might be best for you!

## START HERE:

Are you a robot?

YES

**HUMANOID**

Page 30

Do you occasionally cough up furballs?

YES NO

**GRUMPY CAT**

Page 40

**HERMIT**

Page 56

**CHARIOT RACER**

Page 12

Would you prefer to work from home?

YES NO

Are you sporty?

YES NO

Okay with working naked?

YES NO!

REALLY?

YES NO

**GREEK WRESTLER**

Page 64

Get on well with horses?

YES NO

**CHARIOT RACER**

Page 12

DON'T MIND

Would you be happy cutting up people?

YES NO

Dead people?

YES NO

**MUMMY MAKER**

Page 22

**BARBER-SURGEON**

Page 24

Okay with the serious risk of injury?

YES NO

REALLY?

YES NO

Very sensible

**FOOTBALLER**

Page 68

**SPACEMAN**

Page 18

**AZTEC BALL GAME PLAYER**

Page 66

Are you scared of your own shadow?

YES NO

**PROGNOSTICATOR**

Page 60

Do you have whiskers and a tail?

YES

**MINE-FINDING RAT**

Page 52

Mainly on foot?

YES NO

With a silly little flag?

YES NO

**RED FLAG LAD**

Page 14

**INCAN MESSENGER**

Page 10

Prefer to fly?

YES NO

In space?

YES NO

**AVIATRIX**

Page 16

Do you say "ARRR" a lot?

YES NO

**PIRATE**

Page 46

**TOAD EATER**

Page 26

**ESCAPOLOGIST**

Page 50

**NORSE FARMER**

Page 44

**CHARLATAN**

Page 58

Are you okay with a job involving travel?

YES NO

RATHER NOT

Happy to perform in public?

YES NO

**WAX WORKER**

Page 28

Happy to fool people?

YES NO

Okay with being fired from a cannon?

YES NO

**HUMAN CANNONBALL**

Page 48

Like toads?

YES NO

Are you Harry Houdini?

YES NO

Does your job really stink?

YES, but in another way

**FLATULIST**

Page 86

**BAD POET**

Page 78



# WORK'S LIKE A DREAM!

Is there a dream job that you'd love to have?

(Copy this page and fill in the spaces, ready to apply the moment it becomes available!)

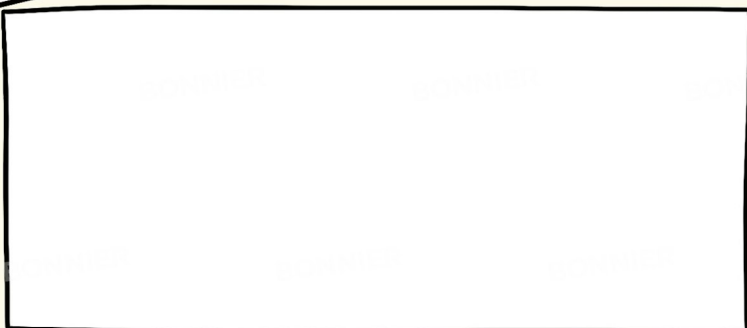


NAME AND AGE

.....



DRAW YOUR  
DREAM JOB HERE:



DREAM JOB TITLE

.....  
.....

WHY DO YOU WANT THIS JOB?



.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

HOW MUCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PAID?

.....

WHAT SKILLS CAN  
YOU BRING?

★ .....  
★ .....  
★ .....  
★ .....  
★ .....  
★ .....  
★ .....

