

MIKE
BARFIELD



THE WORLD'S FIRST

CANNONMAN AND OTHER INCRECIBLE JOBS

FRANZISKA
HÖLLBACHER



M

M

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!



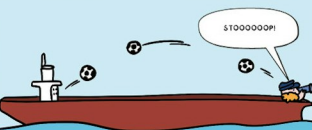
Early humans moved around in search of food. Simply surviving was a job in itself. Since we settled down, there have been lots of odd occupations, past and present, that involve transport or travel. That's what this first chapter is all about, so here are four fab facts to get you going!

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!

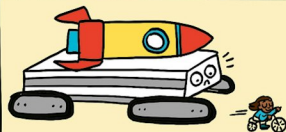


WORLD'S LONGEST SHIP



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 1000 years ago!

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!

ME TOO!
AND ME!



WHAT?
HOW RUDE!

KNOT!
TWIST!
TIE!

See? Our knots contain coded information.

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

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

HOW! REALLY!
COOL!

WHAT A LOT OF KNOTS!
KNICE!

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 PART!
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...

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

What does it say?
Send more string - here running out!

HERE YOU GO
OOH POST!

World's fastest moving snail!

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!

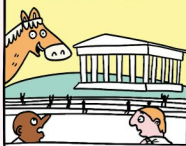
A mailboat on Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, USA, keeps moving slowly along the shoreline, while young 'mail-jumpers' jump off and on stuffing mailboxes on piers. Sometimes they fall in!



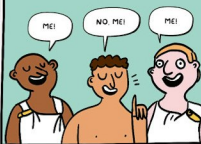
CHARIOT RACER



It's 396 BCE. WELCOME TO OLYMPIA, HOME OF THE ANCIENT GREEK OLYMPIC GAMES.



HERE, MEN - AND ONLY MEN - GET TO SEE WHO IS FASTEST AND STRONGEST.



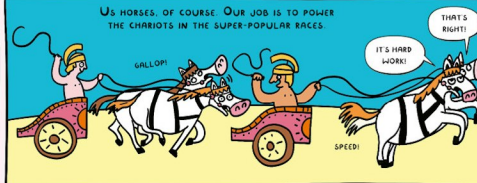
WOMEN ARE BANNED FROM EVEN WATCHING. LET ALONE COMPETING.



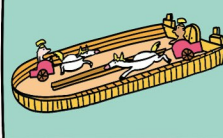
BUT DO YOU KNOW WHO ARE THE FASTEST AND STRONGEST COMPETITORS?



US HORSES OF COURSE. OUR JOB IS TO POWER THE CHARIOTS IN THE SUPER-POPULAR RACES.



WE RACE TWELVE TIMES ROUND A LONG COURSE CALLED A HIPPODROME.



IT'S A DANGEROUS JOB. EACH TIME WE TURN SHARPLY, ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN.



MEANWHILE, OUR OWNER, PRINCESS KYMIKA OF SPARTA, GETS FAME AND SOME FAB PRIZES!



JUST THE JOB: HORSE POWER!



HORSEING AROUND

Legend has it that ancient oddball Roman emperor Caligula made his horse, Incitatus, a judge and fed him oats mixed with gold. Neigh! Surely not?



TAKE A BOW

A horse called Trigger was a world-famous film star in the 1940s. Owned by US cowboy actor Roy Rogers, Trigger could bow to applause and sign his name with an 'X'!



BLACK BEAUTIES

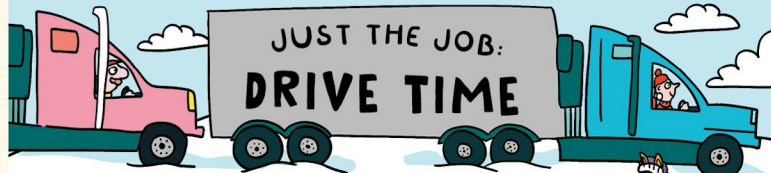
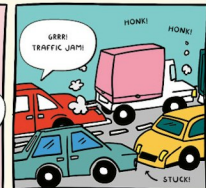
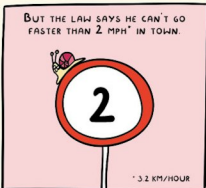
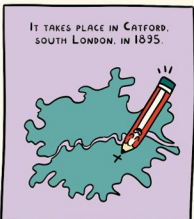
The horses used by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - nicknamed the Mounties - are all black because someone decided that it best showed off the red tunics of their riders.

SMALL WONDERS

Miniature horses can replace dogs as guides for the visually impaired. Unlike dogs, horses' eyes face sideways and they can spot potential hazards over a much wider area.



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!

