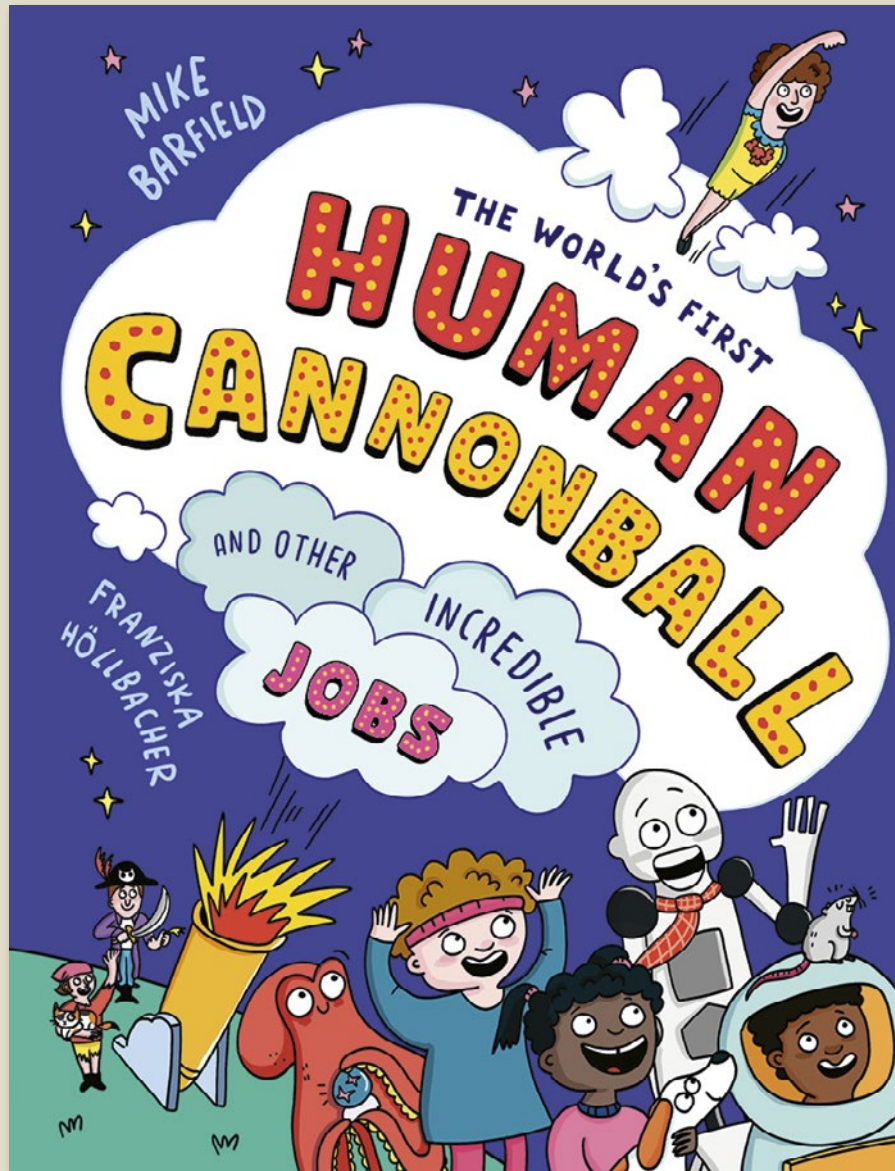


The World's First Human Cannonball



Roll up, roll up! Get your tickets for a whirlwind tour through history's weirdest and wackiest jobs!

- An irresistible exposé into the world of work from the brilliant Mike Barfield, author of *A Day in the Life of a Poo*, *a Gnu and You*, winner of the 2021 Blue Peter Award for a Book with Facts.
- Featuring the weirdest and wackiest jobs throughout the ages, this book is packed with facts for curious minds. Includes jobs in travel, science and sport, as well as the worst jobs in history... and some of the more curious jobs of today!

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INTRODUCTION

Wells, and congratulations on winning the very important job of **READER-IN-CHIEF** of this book!

READER-IN-CHIEF
YOUR PHOTO GOES HERE

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

The hours are flexible. You can skip to work at any time that suits you, day or night. All we ask is that you leave a little and bring a list of the forthcoming pages.

The great perks: **Compliments** and other pleasurable things.

From ancient Egypt to modern times, the world has seen a lot of strange and wonderful things. How the strange to the impossible and even into space!

So grab a chair and get to work. We'll certainly get you back in time and again. You'll have a great time doing this. You'll have a great time doing this.

CHAPTER 1
GOING PLACES

Early human travel around in search of food, family, surviving was a job in itself. From the earliest days, there have been lots of different ways, past and present, that involve transport to places. There's still a lot of things to do, and we have our fair share to get you going!

LEAST EASY CHAIR
Beds that carry disabled people around the city streets were first made in 1818. The chairs were heavy, had no wheels and were made of wood.

WORLD'S LONGEST SHIP
In 1970, the longest ship in the world was built. It was the longest ship ever made, and it was built to be the longest ship in the world.

NEAREST LAND VEHICLE
The first motor vehicle was built in 1885. It was a small, two-wheeled vehicle that was powered by a steam engine.

FIRST AIR STEWARDS
The first air steward was hired in 1914. He was the first person to be hired to look after passengers on an airplane.

INCAN MESSENGER

1. The Incas used a system of runners to carry messages across their empire.

2. The runners were called *chasquis* and they carried messages in a special way.

3. The messages were carried in a special way that allowed them to travel quickly.

4. The runners were trained to run very fast and they were very fit.

5. The runners were trained to run very fast and they were very fit.

JUST THE JOB: GET THE MESSAGE

MAKING IT
The first message was sent in 1851. It was a message that was sent from London to New York.

WORK OFFICE
The first office was built in 1660. It was a place where people went to work and to do their jobs.

LEARNING ON
The first school was built in 1773. It was a place where children went to learn and to be educated.

LET'S MEET THE BOSS
The first boss was hired in 1800. He was the first person to be hired to manage a business.

CHARIOT RACER

1. Chariot racing was a popular sport in ancient Rome.

2. The chariots were pulled by teams of horses.

3. The races were held in a special arena called the Colosseum.

4. The races were very exciting and people loved to watch them.

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JUST THE JOB: HORSE POWER!

WORKING AROUND
Horses have been used for thousands of years to help people do their jobs. They are very strong and they can carry a lot of weight.

TAKE A BISH
A horse called Bish was used to help a man who was blind. Bish was a very smart horse and he knew exactly what his owner needed.

BLACK BEAUTIES
Black beauties are a type of horse that is used for pulling heavy loads. They are very strong and they can work for a long time.

SMALL WONDERS
Small wonders are a type of horse that is used for pulling heavy loads. They are very strong and they can work for a long time.

PICK UP AFTER YOUR HORSE!

RED FLAG LAD

1. He'll come to the point. I'm a pencil, and this story is true.

2. It takes place in Cayford, South London, in 1935.

3. This innocent-looking boy is working as a look-out.

4. He's looking out for police officers who are looking out for motor cars like the ones behind him.

5. It belongs to Penny Peniston who hates going slowly.

6. But the law says he can't go faster than 27mph in town.

7. Plus, you're meant to have someone in front driving a red flag to warn people.

8. So, when the look-out spots the officer, he signals to the car driver slowly to let the passenger out. Who is creeping, Pen!

9. The law does not say what size the flag needs to be!

10. The speed limit was raised soon after - and 8 set cars go much faster in the future. Don't they?

11. Well, I'm a pencil, and this story is true.

JUST THE JOB: DRIVE TIME

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!

HOP IT!
Truckers in the intense heat of the Australian outback hitch together several trailers to create huge 'road trains' that can't stop in a hurry. Kangaroos, keep out of their way!

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!

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