

MIKE
BARFIELD

THE WORLD'S

LAST MAMMOTH

FRANZISKA
HÖLLBACHER

AND OTHER
MISSING
MARVELS

COVER NOT
FINAL

INTRODUCTION

Hello!
Are you lost?

Well, don't panic! You've
actually found yourself in a
really great place right now!

YOU
ARE
HERE



You're poised to enter the fun- and
fact-packed pages of **The World's Last
Mammoth and other Missing Marvels!**

This book is all about lost and long-gone
things: absent animals, bygone buildings,
missing monarchs, past palaces, and more.
You'll find them all in here – and many
of their modern versions too!

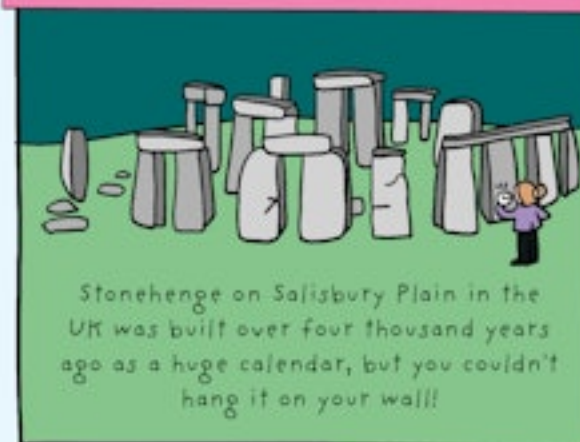
So, get ready for a magical
mystery tour through
missing history. It's a
mammoth journey but –
be warned! – you may find
yourself getting lost in
laughter along the way!



THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World were mighty monuments dating back to times of togas and sandals. Only one has survived until today. In this opening chapter, we revisit the missing six and then reveal the one remaining wonder. But first, four famous world wonders the ancient Greeks and Romans rather rudely overlooked!

MOST FAMOUS STONES



Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain in the UK was built over four thousand years ago as a huge calendar, but you couldn't hang it on your wall!

WONDER WALL



At 21,196 km, China's Great Wall is the world's longest. It can be seen from a low space orbit, but only if you know exactly where to look!

WORLD'S LARGEST MONOLITH



Uluru, in almost the very centre of Australia, is a single huge sandstone rock about 3km long and wide that is sacred to the local indigenous people.

WORLD'S BIGGEST PYRAMID



Not in Egypt but in Mexico, the Great Pyramid of Cholula was built by the ancient Aztec people using bricks made of air-dried mud!

HANGING GARDENS



PAST AND PRESENT JUST GROW UP!

FRONDS IN HIGH PLACES

Not far from Mount Everest, Nepal's National Botanical Gardens are on the roof of the world, not the roof of a building. Located in the Kathmandu valley, they are home to the spiny babbler, a bird thought to be extinct for over 100 years until it was rediscovered in the 1940s.

PITCHED ROOF

Today, the world's largest rooftop garden is above government offices in Sejong City, South Korea. The size of 11 football pitches, it is planted with over 1 million trees - roughly three for every resident of the city.

TREE-MENDOUS!

Finished in 2000, Die Waldspirale ('The Wooded-Spiral') in Darmstadt, Germany is an apartment block with a rooftop forest of trees winding its way up twelve floors. The building has over 1000 windows - none of them the same size or shape, as the architect hated straight lines.

MOUNT PLEASANT

Opened in 1995, ACROS Fukuoka is a green mountain - just like Babylon's Hanging Gardens - in the centre of Fukuoka City, Japan. The planted terraces are a beautiful green solution to keeping the building behind them nice and cool to work in.

TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS



PAST AND PRESENT HOLY AMAZING!



HOLE STOREY

The Pantheon in Rome was built by Emperor Hadrian in 126 CE. Celebrating many different Roman gods, its 34 metre wide roof is the largest unsupported concrete dome in the world, and has stood for over 1900 years, despite a huge hole at the top that lets in rain!

HIGHER SPIRE

The Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain is the world's largest unfinished church. Its main architect Antoni Gaudi died in 1926, and when his unusual design is finally completed, perhaps by 2034, it should have the world's tallest spire, at 172.5 metres tall.

WAT A SIZE!

Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Southeast Asia, is the world's biggest religious monument. Built as a Hindu temple in 1150 CE, it became a Buddhist site soon afterwards. 90 football pitches in size, it was lost to nature before being rediscovered in the 1860s.

TURKISH DELIGHT

The Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey, was the world's largest cathedral for nearly 1000 years after its completion in 537 CE. Now a mosque, legend had it that columns from the Temple of Artemis were used to build it, but none have been found.



MISSING PERSONS

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Hi! I'm Alexander the Great.

I was born in 356 BCE, son of ancient Greek king Philip II of Macedon. However, my mum Queen Olympia claimed thunder god Zeus was actually my dad. No wonder I was destined for greatness!

ME. LOOKING GREAT

My dad had me schooled by the top boffin of the time, the philosopher Aristotle. He taught me about medicine, philosophy, art and poetry, but what I was really good at was fighting. You don't get called 'Great' for no reason!

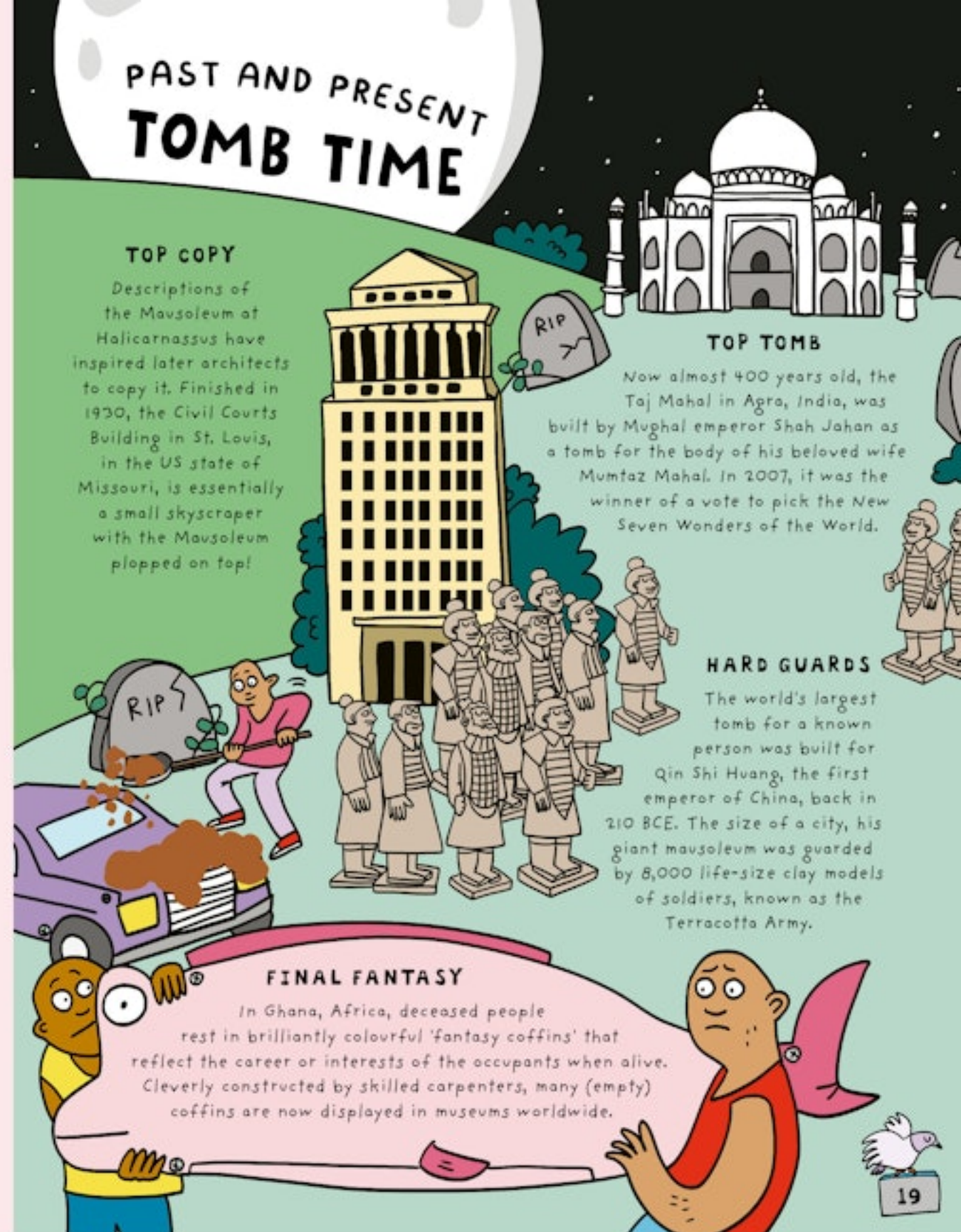
Aged 10, I impressed my dad by taming a wild horse which I afterwards rode during my many military campaigns. I called him Bucephalus and years later, when he died, I named a city in what is now India in his honour!

I became king aged 20, when my dad was murdered by his own bodyguard! I'd helped him win lots of battles by then, and I set out to conquer as many lands as possible. In fact, in 20 battles over 12 years, I never lost one. I was truly Great!

My empire ending up stretching from Greece to northern India, as I attacked towns and cities, killing the men and making slaves of the women and children. Oh, and I usually stole their treasures and sent them home too. It was great being Great!

In 323 BCE, I was in Babylon with king Nebuchadnezzar II (see page XX) when I became suddenly ill and died. I was only 32! My body was placed in a gold coffin and honey added to preserve it. I never lost a battle, but still came to a sticky end!

My remains ended up in a temple in Alexandria, Egypt – a city I built and named after myself. Many famous people paid a visit, including Queen Cleopatra, but no one in your time has yet discovered where it stood. That's not Great, is it?!



LIGHTHOUSE OF ALEXANDRIA

Hi! I'm a fish in the waters of the Nile Delta, by the city of Alexandria, Egypt.



SWIM!

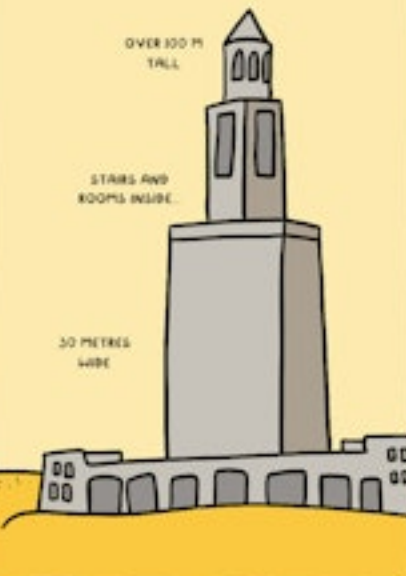
See the sandbanks close to the coast that take ships by surprise?



AWES!

STUCK!

Fish can, but humans can't - which is why people built this tall tower on an island in the city's harbour.



It was begun by Greek King Ptolemy about 284 BCE.



His son, also called Ptolemy, completed the job about 246 BCE.



The tower was tapered, and each part had a different cross-section...



BASE SQUARE MIDDLE OCTAGON TOP CIRCLE

Above it all was a statue of Zeus...



A huge fire burned to show sailors the way at night.



By day, ships could steer by the smoke it made...



The lighthouse was one of the last standing wonders until earthquakes struck in the middle ages.



Today you can still see some of its stones and statues...



PAST AND PRESENT

TOWER RECORDS

TALL ORDER

Today's tallest building is the Burj Khalifa skyscraper in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at almost 829 metres tall. However, if - and when - it is finally finished, the Jeddah Tower in Saudi Arabia will then be crowned king at over one kilometre in height.

WHAT AN EYEFUL

One of the world's best-loved landmarks, the Eiffel Tower in Paris spent a little over 40 years as its tallest building, beginning in 1889. It was meant to be taken down just 20 years later, but it was saved by being used as a radio signals transmitter.

SMALL WONDER

The Lighthouse of Alexandria wasn't added to the list of ancient wonders until the sixth century CE. Amazingly, what is thought to be a small copy just 20 metres high, but almost as old, still stands at the nearby coastal town of Abusir, Egypt.

HIGH CHURCH

Finished in 1311 CE, Lincoln Cathedral, in the east of England, had a run of several hundred years as the world's tallest building thanks to its 160 metre high central spire. It took the title from the only ancient wonder still standing today. Find out which over the page!





Kings and queens rule, okay? That's their job, of course, and throughout the ages some have done it better than others. In this chapter, we check out some monster monarchs who were once mighty rulers, but are now simply history. But first, four right royal facts!

MOST MYTHICAL MONARCH

Legendary English King Arthur was invented by writers in the Middle Ages. In 1191, monks at Glastonbury Abbey, England, claimed to have found his grave – a stunt to attract visitors!



OLDEST PASSPORT HOLDER

The 3000 year old mummy of ancient Egyptian pharaoh Rameses II was flown to France in 1976 along with a passport that said, 'Occupation: King (deceased)'.



ITCHIEST TRIGGER FINGER

Seventeenth century Queen Christina of Sweden kept a tiny crossbow beside her bed to shoot some of her smallest and most irritating subjects, fleas.



ICE MAIDEN

In 1740, Russian empress Anna Ivanovna built an entire palace and everything in it – including a giant bed – from carved blocks of ice, and made her court jester sleep in it.





FACE VALUE

Cleopatra ruled from the Egyptian city of Alexandria. Archaeologist Kathleen Martinez, a Dominican fan of the pharaoh, has spent years searching for her tomb in a nearby temple dedicated to the god Osiris, unearthing coins with Cleo's head on them.

NEEDLE TIME

Both New York City in the USA and London, UK, have ancient Egyptian obelisks – tall needle-shaped columns – that have been nicknamed Cleopatra's Needle. They were each found in Alexandria, but are far older than the time of her reign.





MISSING PERSONS



BIG ME (POSSIBLY)

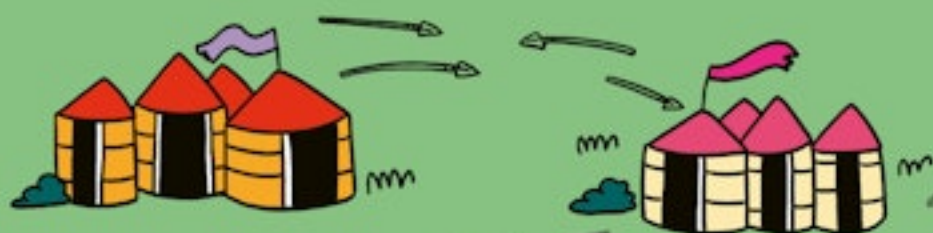
GENGHIS KHAN

Hello. I'm Genghis Khan, the mighty Mongolian emperor. If you don't believe me, I'll take that as a sign of disloyalty and have you killed. I did a lot of killing in my lifetime – as many as 40 million people some say. The most of any world leader ever!

That picture of me is just a guess. No known portrait of me exists. I was born about 1162 and my Mongol chieftain dad called me Temujin. Legend has it I came into the world clutching a blood clot in my hand – a sign I would be a great leader.



Baby me (possibly)



There were lots of rival tribes living on the vast grassland known as the Mongolian steppe back then, and they were always fighting and killing each other. Indeed, one of them poisoned my dad leaving me, my mum and brothers struggling to survive.

My bride Borte (possibly)



Well, one of my older brothers didn't have to struggle for long. I killed him over a fight for food when I was 10. At 15 I was captured and made a slave by another rival tribe, and at 16 I was married, but my bride was then kidnapped. It was a busy childhood!

Long story short, after that I got rival tribes together to form a huge army with me in charge that went all over Asia killing, conquering and looting treasures. That's why in 1206 I renamed myself Genghis Khan – 'Khan' meaning ruler.

Me as khan (possibly)



My eventual empire stretched across the Middle East to China, the largest history has ever seen. I also took lots of wives, and had lots of children. Incredibly, it is reckoned that 1 in 200 men worldwide in your time are actually descended from me!

Me on a horse (possibly)



My final resting place (probably)



I died in 1227 after falling from a horse, and was buried on a sacred mountainside at a spot I chose as a child. Despite my fame, no one knows the exact location, in part because my funeral procession killed everyone they met on the way. Oops!

PUYI

Hi! It's 1960, and I'm a stand of bamboo in the Beijing Botanical Gardens, China...

This man is a gardener, but as a child he didn't grow plants...

TRUE.

WATER!

HE GREW ANGRY! THAT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS PUYI, CHINA'S LAST EVER EMPEROR!

SLOW DOWN BEFORE ME OR I SHALL HAVE YOU FLOGGED!

YES DIVINE ONE.

BEND!

IN 1908, AGED JUST 2, HE WAS DRAGGED TO THE FORBIDDEN CITY PALACE AND MADE EMPEROR AGAINST HIS WISHES.

I WANT MY PUMPKY.

SORRY, NOT POSSIBLE.

GROWING UP, SERVANTS DID EVERYTHING FOR HIM - EVEN COOLING HIS SOUP.

THIS IS A LOW BLOW.

SHUSH OR I SHALL HAVE YOU FLOGGED.

BLOW!

UTTERLY SPOILED, HE REGULARLY HAD SERVANTS FLOGGED FOR FUN.

WUP!

AGAIN!

ANOTHER LOW BLOW ONE!

SECRETLY, HIS SERVANTS GOT REVENGE BY STEALING ROYAL TREASURES AND SELLING THEM.

AND NOW IT'S MY TURN TO FLOG SOMETHING!

A BRITISH TEACHER TAUGHT HIM ENGLISH, AND HE TOOK TO GROWING HIS HAIR AND WEARING SPECTACLES.

NOW I WILL SEE THE FLOGGINGS MORE CLEARLY!

HOWEVER, IN 1924, CHINA BECAME A REPUBLIC AND ABOLISHED THE ROLE OF EMPEROR.

WHAT! SOMEONE RESERVES FLOGGING FOR THIS?

UPL!

PUYI ENDED UP AS A PRETEND EMPEROR OF A PART OF CHINA INVADDED BY JAPAN...

LUCKILY I STILL GOT TO FLOG PEOPLE!

IN 1945 HE WAS TAKEN PRISONER BY THE SOVIET UNION, BUT STILL HAD SERVANTS IN HIS CELL.

PORRIDGE TOO HOT, BLOW!

THEN IN THE 1950s HE RETURNED TO CHINA AS AN ORDINARY CITIZEN, AND GOT A JOB HERE.

THOSE CANES BRING BACK MEMORIES.

PUYI DIED IN 1967.

PAST AND PRESENT FORBIDDEN TREASURES

WHAT A SPECTACLE

Puyi's former palace in Beijing is now one of the world's most popular museums with over 17 million visitors per year. Tourists can see his spectacles, golden chopsticks, and Imperial seals.

HERE BE DRAGONS!

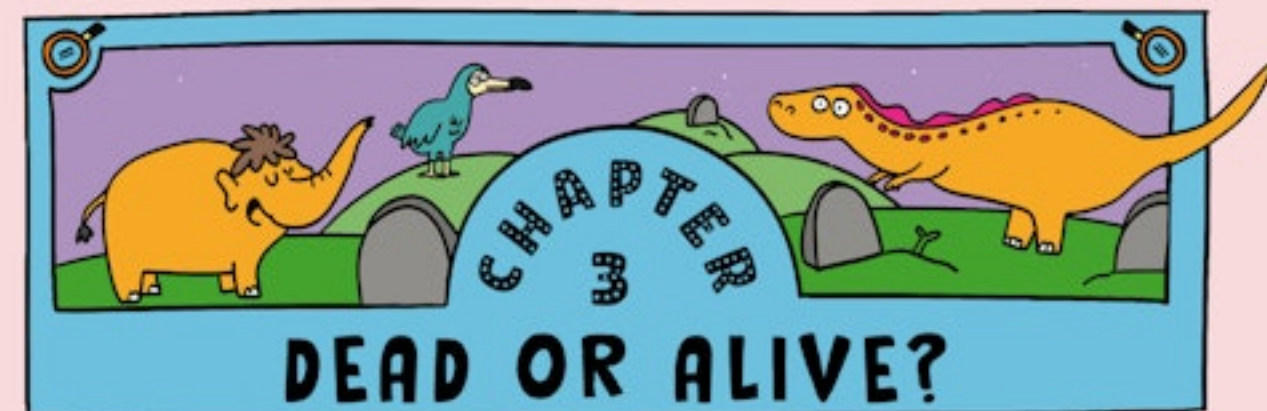
Many palace buildings have fantastic beasts on their roof including phoenixes, winged monkeys, and dragons. The dragon was the symbol of the power of the emperor, and the more beasts on a building, the more important it was.

CLOCK THIS!

Zimengzhong is the charming Chinese word for the palace's display of ornate golden animal-shaped clocks, originally collected by past emperors. They include clocks in the shape of rhinos, elephants, cranes and camels.

NO WAY!

The Forbidden City was so-named because it was forbidden for ordinary people to enter. Today it is open to anyone with a ticket, and they can even pass through the central Meridian Gate, which only the emperor was allowed to use.



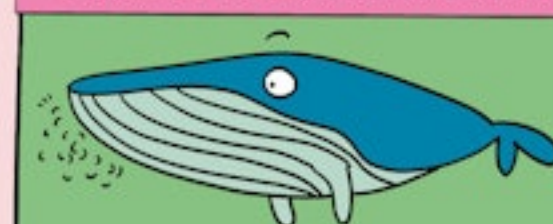
Life began on Earth over 3.5 billion years ago, since when over 99 per cent of its living things, including dinosaurs, have been and gone. Here we unearth some legendary lost life forms and some surprising survivors. But first, four wild facts.

OLDEST INHABITANTS



Shark Bay in Western Australia is peppered with stromatolites – raised rocky columns built by tiny bacteria like those first present at the dawn of life.

LARGEST EVER INHABITANT



Who needs dinosaurs? At almost 30 metres, the Arctic blue whale is the largest animal known to have existed, yet feeds on shrimp-like krill the size of a little finger.

GIANT STEPS



Camelotia was a dinosaur that walked on Earth 200 million years ago, leaving footprints that were found on a beach in Wales by 10 year old Tegan Jones in 2024!

BURNING ISSUE



Coal is a fossilised rock made from plants that grew in forests buzzed by deadly dragonflies with 60cm wingspans, 300 million years ago. It seems a shame to burn it!

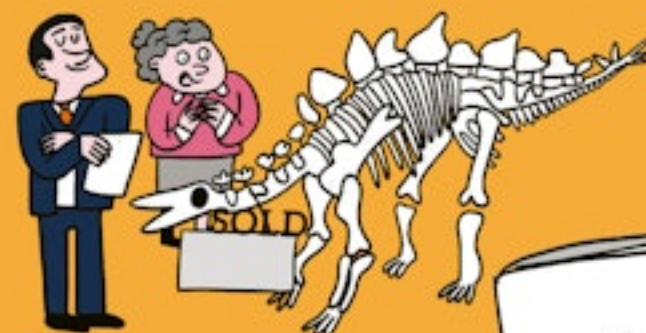
THE LAST DINOSAUR



PAST AND PRESENT JURASSIC PARTS

SAURUS COMING?

Fossils – the preserved remains of long dead living things – are the best clues to Earth's dinosaur past. In July 2024, a fossilised Stegosaurus known as Apex sold at auction for a staggering \$44.6 million – a record amount for a bunch of stony bones!



ROCK STAR

London's Natural History Museum holds the world's most stupendous stone slab. It depicts Archaeopteryx – a small dinosaur with a beak and feathered wings that helped reveal birds were descended from dinos.

DEEPLY DIPPY

Some famous fossils are fakes. Many museums across the world have a 'Dippy' – a 25 metre long skeleton of a plant-eating Diplodocus from the late Jurassic. However, the 292 'bones' are actually plaster copies modelled from an original fossil specimen.

PARK LIFE

'Dinosaurs' didn't actually exist until 1842, when British boffin Sir Richard Owen invented the word. He also designed the first life-size public sculptures of dinosaurs – still on display in a south London park – and a feast was held inside one of them!



WOOLLY MAMMOTH



MISSING PERSONS

NEANDERTHALS

Hi! We're Neanderthals, a species of humans different to yours, which lived in small groups across Europe and Asia over 50,000 years ago. My family have asked me to speak for them – though no one is quite sure whether we could talk or not!

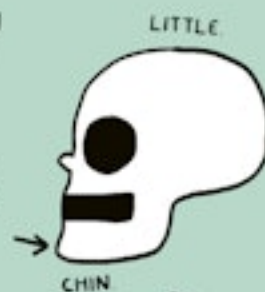
SOMETHING HERE?

Many of us sheltered in caves close to forests. We knew how to use fire, so it could be quite cosy in a cave, though sometimes we had to share it with others. Not people – I mean scary lions, bears and hyenas. Eek!



You modern humans once depicted us as primitive, ape-like people wielding clubs. True, we were stockier than you, with sloping foreheads and big, broad noses – but they helped warm up the cold air before it hit our lungs! It could be chilly back then!

Oh, and while I remember, fossils show our skulls and brains were actually bigger than yours. However, we did miss something you modern humans have – a pointy chin. We were chinless wonders!



Me again.

We had spears and hunted red deer and rabbits in the woods. Meat was a main part of the menu, but Neanderthals near the sea ate fish and seals, while others were vegetarians. Personally, I liked the biggest meaty meal you could get: mammoth!

We also made stone tools and jewellery, cared for our old and injured, and used plants as medicines. Some of us wore animal fur ponchos for warmth, while others went naked in sunnier places. (Maybe I shouldn't have told you that!)

And then about 40,000 years ago, we vanished. Modern humans don't know why, but your ancestors eventually outnumbered us. Some had babies with us, and a small amount of modern human DNA is Neanderthal in origin. We're not totally gone – we live on a little in you! Do you miss us?!

NOT like this!

More like this!



PAST AND PRESENT FEATHER REPORT

NATURAL WONDER

A museum in Oxford, UK, has the world's only dodo head with skin on it. The specimen inspired Victorian author Lewis Carroll to include a dodo in his 1865 story *Alice in Wonderland*, bringing the bird back to life!

STAR TURN

The solitaire had a constellation in the night sky named after it in 1776. The same star pattern was then later renamed Noctua, The Owl. Today, the stars are part of the snake constellation, Hydra.



WINGING IT

The closest living relative of both the dodo and solitaire is the Nicobar pigeon, found in flocks on small islands across the Indian Ocean. Unlike them, it can fly, which is probably why it has survived.



BONE IDOL

A dodo skeleton made from the bones of several different birds sold at auction for over \$430,000 in 2016. It had belonged to a dodo-fan who realised he had collected enough separate bones over 40 years to build an almost complete bird.



Ever since our species arose in Africa, humans have been going places. First it was on foot, now we fly, drive, ride and slide. In this chapter, we take a tour through vanished vehicles and lost forms of transport, hitting the road with four fab facts!

OLDEST KNOWN SKIS



Missing for 1,300 years, a wooden ski dating to before the time of the Vikings was found buried in ice in Digervarden, Norway in 2014. Its pair then turned up nearby in 2021!

OLDEST SET OF WHEELS



A pot found in Poland dating back about 5,500 years is decorated with what seems to be a four-wheeled farm wagon.

FIRST AIRBORNE SHEEP

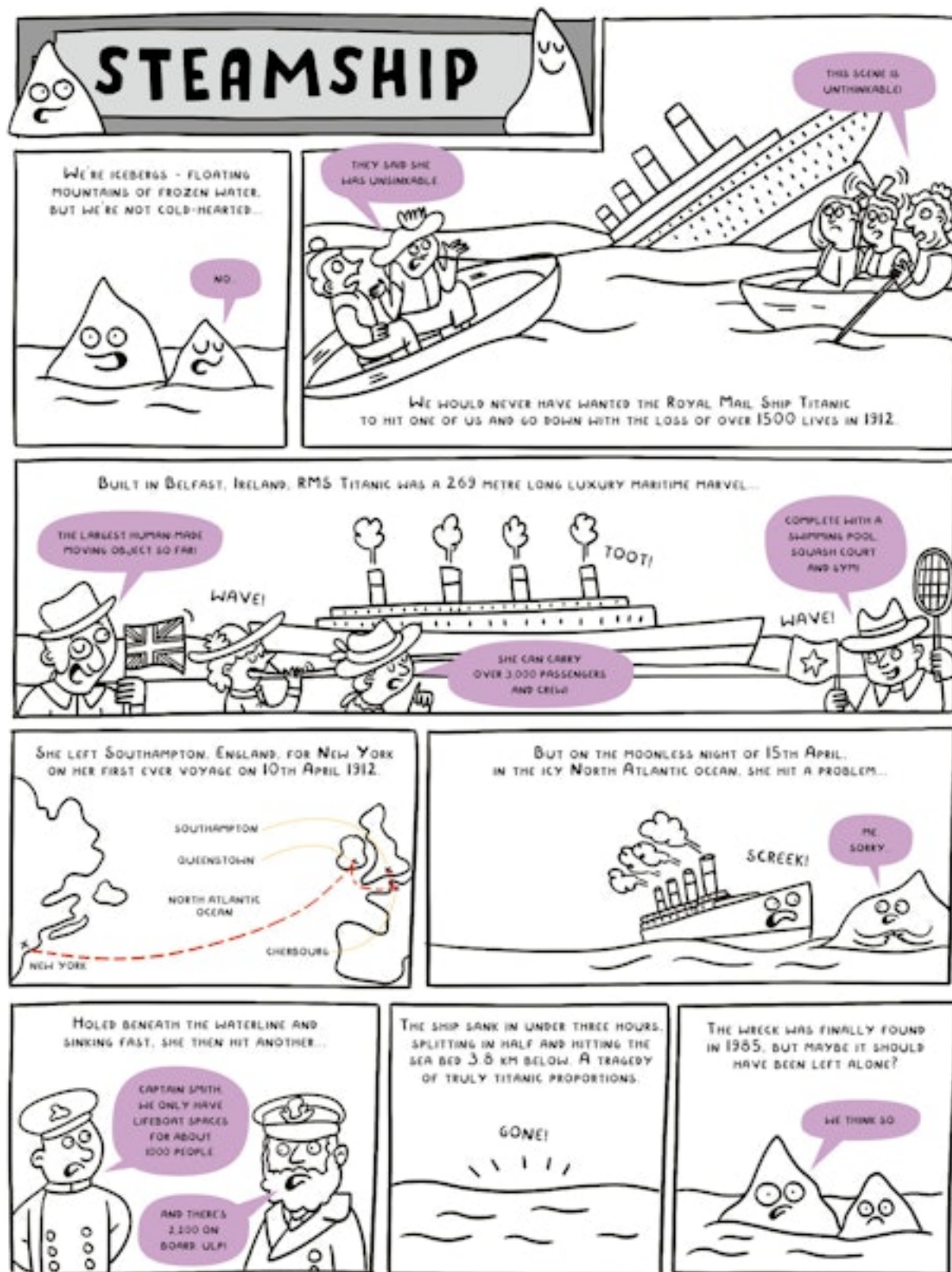


The first animals to fly in a hot air balloon were a rooster, a duck, and a sheep called 'Montguciel'. Lifting off from near Paris in September 1783, they all landed safely!

FURTHEST VEHICLE

The Voyager 1 space probe was launched in 1977 by US space agency NASA and is now over 24 billion km from Earth – the most distant human-made object ever.





PAST AND PRESENT DEEP DIVE

RUST IN PEACE

You need a super-strong submarine to reach the remains of the Titanic, but hurry! Its metal parts are slowly being eaten away by bacteria that produce strands known as 'rusticles' - a mix of the words 'rust' and 'icicle'.

YOUNG AND OLD

Just two months old, British baby Millvina Dean was the youngest passenger on Titanic's doomed voyage and was adored by adults on board. Aged 97, she also lived to be its last ever survivor, having lost her own father in the tragedy.

HORROR-SCOPE

'Futility' was a short novel by US author Morgan Robertson. Published in 1898, it was about a giant British luxury liner that hit an iceberg and sank with many lives lost due to too few lifeboats. The name of this ship? The Titan. Coincidence?

FULL STEAM AGAIN?

Back in 2012, an Australian billionaire announced a plan to make a modern copy of the ill-fated ship, to be called Titanic 2. If it does ever get built, modern shipping laws will make sure it has more than enough lifeboats for everyone.



AIRSHIP

Hi! We're atoms of hydrogen gas, the lightest element in the universe.



In 1783, Frenchman Jacques Charles and a colleague flew a hydrogen-filled balloon, 36 km from Paris.



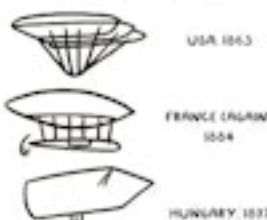
I CALL IT A BASKET!

I CALL IT INCREDIBLE!

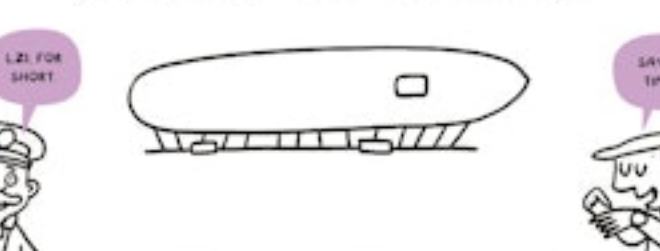


The first steerable steam-powered airship was also built in France, by Henri Giffard in 1852.

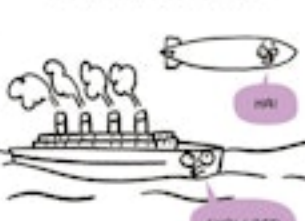
Many other countries began building airships...



And in 1900, former German general Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin built his own first airship, the Luftschiff Zeppelin I...



Soon, Zeppelin airships flew passengers across oceans faster than steamships.



Von Zeppelin died in 1917, but his company kept going, building the world's largest ever airship - the 245-m long LZ129 Hindenburg in 1936.



Hydrogen gas was light and cheap, but sadly is also very dangerous.



The Hindenburg accident ended the airship era until people started to use helium...



HEY! I THOUGHT WE DIDN'T EXPLODE!



PAST AND PRESENT BAGS OF FUN

SCARESHIPS

At the end of the 19th century, a wave of people in the USA claimed to have spotted lights in the night sky coming from phantom airships looking like UFOs. After about 150 reports, they stopped suddenly in early 1897...

CLOUD CONTROL

US space agency NASA has proposed exploring the upper atmosphere of the planet Venus using solar powered airships, with people living in floating cloud cities high above Venus's deadly hot surface.

WHAT A CHEEK!

The Airlander 10 is a modern helium-filled airship that a British company is hoping to use for tourist trips to the North Pole. The airship is nicknamed 'The Flying Bum' - though the 'bum' shape is at the front not the rear!

OUT FOR THE COUNT

French adventurer Stephane Rousson has attempted to cross the English Channel and the Mediterranean Sea slung underneath a small helium-filled airship or 'blimp'. He calls his blimps 'Zeppy', in honour of Count Zeppelin.

MISSING PERSONS



AMELIA EARHART

Growing up, people went to public 'air fairs' to watch pilots do tricks and you also could also fly in a plane yourself. I was only 10 when my dad offered to pay for me to take a trip, but the plane looked so rickety, I refused. Well, that soon changed!

AMELIA EARHART

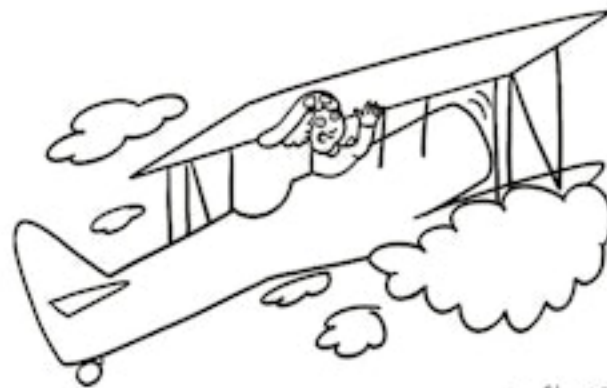
Hi! I'm Amelia Earhart, and I was born in Kansas, USA, in 1897. My last name is pronounced 'air-heart' - perfect for someone who loved flying and became one of the most famous aviators of all time! That picture of me is from my pilot's licence!

RICKETY OR WHAT?

My interest in flying came from working in a military hospital helping pilots who had been injured in World War 1. Their stories led to me finally taking a short flight at an air fair in 1920. Once I got off the ground, I just knew I had to fly!

I had lessons with renowned female flying instructor Neta Snook, working many jobs to pay for them. I also cut my hair short, bought a new leather flying jacket, and a second-hand yellow biplane which I nicknamed 'The Canary'.

Me and Neta



On 22nd October 1922, I set a new world record for a female flyer, taking 'The Canary' to a height of 4,300 metres. Little did I know this was to be the first of many records I would set. Even better, in 1923, I was granted my pilot's licence!

In 1928, I became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean from Canada to the UK. The flight took 20 hours and 40 minutes, and made me world famous, but I was simply a passenger for that. Now, I wanted to pilot the planes myself!

Well, in 1932, I did it! I flew nonstop on my own from Newfoundland, Canada in a bright red Lockheed Vega, landing in a muddy field in Northern Ireland 15 hours later. Being the first female to fly the Atlantic alone made me mega-famous, and was a powerful symbol of what women could do!

Many more records followed. Then in 1937, while trying to be the first woman to fly around the world, my plane disappeared. It probably ran out of fuel and crashed into the ocean, but me and my navigator Fred Noonan have never been found. It was a sad end for us - and I'm even sadder about not setting that record!

The crash site? ?



SUPERSONIC JET

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME STICKING MY NOSE IN - IT'S 7.5 METRES LONG!

I'M A 62 METRE LONG PASSENGER JET CALLED CONCORDE. BUILT JOINTLY BY BRITAIN AND FRANCE IN THE 1960s.

CONCORDE MEANS AGREEMENT IN FRENCH DON'T YOU KNOW!

ROOOOARRR!

OF COURSE, I DO, I'M FRENCH

MY NOSE DROOPED ON TAKING OFF AND LANDING SO THE PILOT COULD SEE PAST IT.

ROOOOARRR!

CAPTAIN, THE NOSE IS A NEW SHAPE

YES, I PICKED IT MYSELF

MY WINGS FORMED A LONG THIN TRIANGLE KNOWN AS A 'DELTA' AFTER THE GREEK LETTER Δ. AND UNLIKE OTHER JETS, I HAD NO TAIL.

SO HOW COULD THEY TELL WHEN IT WAS HAPPY?

GOOD POINT!

WAG!

ENTERING SERVICE IN 1976, I COULD TRAVEL UP TO 2,150 KM/H - TWICE THE SPEED OF SOUND!

I'M SUPERSONIC!

ROOOOARRR!

SUPER-NOISY TOO!

THAT WAS ONE PROBLEM. SUPER-SPEEDS CAUSED A MASSIVELY LOUD NOISE ON THE GROUND KNOWN AS A SONIC...

BOOM!

SO, I ONLY FLEW SUPERSONICALLY 17 KM UP, FROM WHERE YOU COULD SEE THE CURVE OF THE EARTH.

I THOUGHT IT WAS FLAT

ARE YOU ROUND THE BEND?

ROOOOARRR!

MY ENGINES WERE ALSO NOISY IN NORMAL FLIGHT OVER CITIES...

IT'S CONCORDE!

ROOOOARRR!

SO I HEAR

ON THE PLUS SIDE, LONG JOURNEYS WERE MUCH QUICKER...

WE GOT HERE IN HALF THE TIME

BUT AT WELL OVER TWICE THE COST!

ADD IN AIR POLLUTION AND A FATAL CRASH IN 2000, AND ALL CONCORDES WERE GROUNDED IN 2003 AND PUT ON DISPLAY INSTEAD.

CLICK!

HOPE MY NOSE DOESN'T LOOK TOO BIG.

PAST AND PRESENT THE JET SET

NOSE FOR A BARGAIN

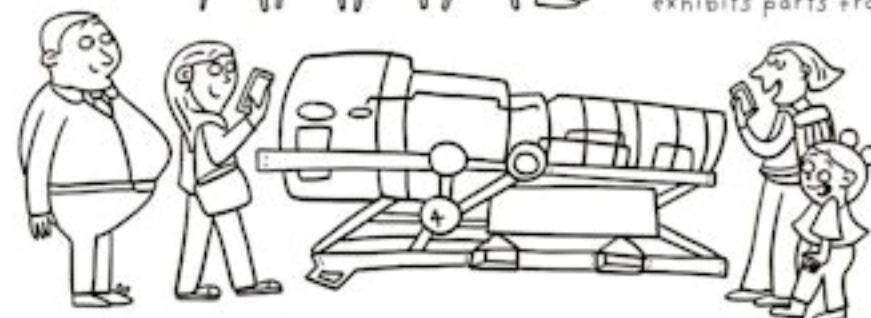
The drooping nose cone remains the most iconic and collectible part of Concorde. An unused cone sold at auction in 2018 for \$82,000 on the nose, so to speak.

GONE IN A FLASH

Only one photo exists of Concorde flying supersonically. The plane had to slow slightly to allow a military jet to take a quick snap before Concorde powered away.

ENGINE ROOM

Sixteen Concorde are on public display in Europe, Barbados, and the United States. You can also visit the Museo del Concorde in Chihuahua, Mexico, which exhibits parts from past planes, including a giant Rolls Royce engine.



SO NOISE-SKI!

Nicknamed 'Concordski', the Tupolev Tu-144 was a slightly larger, slightly faster rival to Concorde built by the Soviet Union. However, engine noise inside the plane was so loud passengers had to shout or write notes to each other.

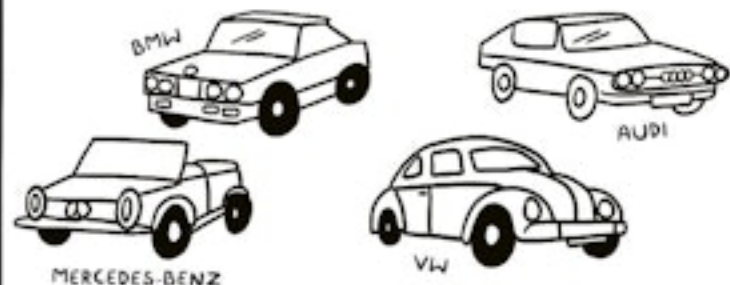
BOOM TIME

The days of supersonic passenger planes may be soon returning. American company Boom Industries plans to build a fleet of luxury 'Overture' airliners that it hopes will take to the air in 2030.



PLASTIC CAR

DRIVERS SPEAK HIGHLY OF MANY GERMAN MAKES OF CAR...



BUT ONLY ONE GERMAN-MADE CAR LITERALLY TURNED THE AIR BLUE - DUE TO ITS UNRELIABILITY AND SMOKY EXHAUST!



THE TINY TRABANT - 'Trabi', FOR SHORT - WAS MADE IN EAST GERMANY FROM 1957 TO 1991.



AFTER WORLD WAR II, GERMANY WAS SPLIT INTO EAST AND WEST, AND THE BORDER BETWEEN THEM CLOSED...



IN COMMUNIST EAST GERMANY, PEOPLE HAD TWO CLEAR CHOICES WHEN IT CAME TO OWNING A CAR...



THEN THEY WAITED UP TO TEN YEARS FOR DELIVERY.



THE NOISY, SMELLY, BADLY BUILT CARS WERE THE BUTT OF MANY JOSES...



BUT THEY BECAME WORLD FAMOUS IN 1989 WHEN THE EAST GERMAN BORDER WAS FINALLY OPENED AND A TRAIL OF TRABIS HEADED WEST!



ONCE THERE, MANY WERE DUMPED IN FAVOUR OF FAR BETTER WESTERN CARS.



TODAY, SURVIVING TRABIS ARE HIGHLY-PRIZED COLLECTORS' ITEMS...



PAST AND PRESENT PLASTIC FANTASTIC

SHHH!

The International Spy Museum in Washington DC, USA does actually exist - but, please, don't tell anyone. Since 2006, it has hosted an annual parade of Trabants, including a challenge to visitors to see if they could hide inside one to get past border guards!



WALL FLOWER

The city of Berlin was divided by a concrete wall built by East Germany in 1961 to stop citizens escaping to the West. It began to be demolished in 1989, and a surviving segment has a famous mural by artist Birgit Kinder showing her Trabi bursting through unscathed.



SUPER-COUPÉ

Invented in 1979 by US car designer Jim Mariol, the 'Cozy Coupe' plastic play car made by the Little Tikes toy company, is consistently one of the world's best-selling vehicles. Jim was inspired by scooting around on an office chair with wheels.



TRABI V STRATI

'Strati' is an electric car made in 2014 by a process known as 3-D printing where parts are formed from layers of heated plastic controlled by a computer. However, with a top speed of just 64 km/h, a surviving Trabi could take it any day. (Perhaps.)





MUSEUM PIECES

Many of history's most famous vehicles are now safely parked in museums around the world. Indeed, some of those vehicles may have actually travelled around the world themselves. Here is a selection of now-stationary stars?

Vostok 1 is the space capsule in which Soviet Union cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin made the first space-orbit of Earth in 1961. It is on display at a massive amusement park in Moscow, Russia.



In December 1903, Orville Wright piloted the first sustained flight in a heavier-than-air machine built with his brother Wilbur. *Flyer 1* now rests in a flight museum in Washington DC, USA - as does Amelia Earhart's red Lockheed Vega 5B. (See page 47)



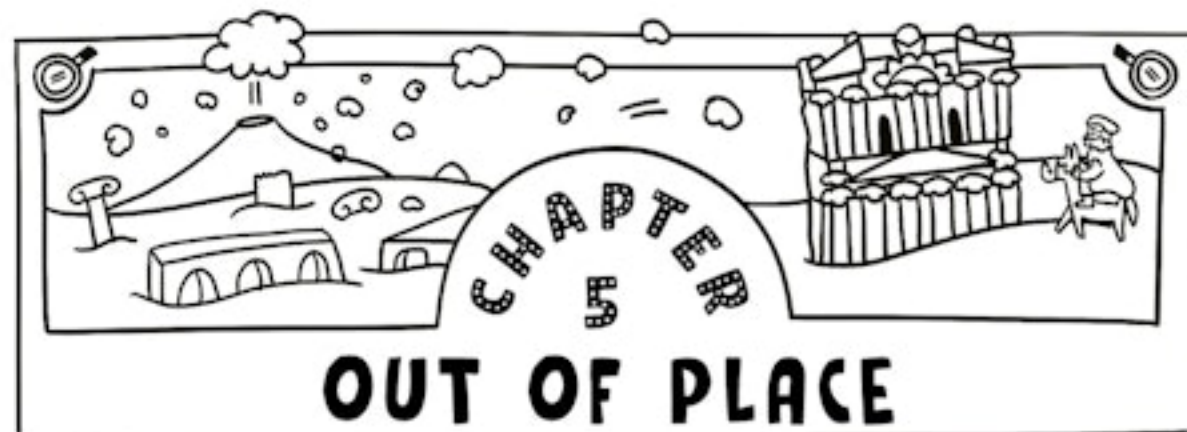
Olton Hall is the actual name of the black and red steam locomotive that delivers young wizards to Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films. Built in 1937, it stands in a replica of Platform 9 3/4 in a movie museum just outside London, UK.



The Oseberg longship, a well-preserved Viking sailing vessel, is on display at a museum in Oslo, Norway. Built about 800 CE, a seaworthy modern copy of the ship has been made that allows visitors to go on board and be part of its crew!



The world's oldest known wheel was found in a marsh outside the Slovenian capital Ljubljana in 2002, and can be seen in the city's museum. Made of ash and oak, it has been dated back over 5,000 years.



It should be a little difficult to lose something as big as a city, but history has shown us that time, floods, volcanoes and other disasters can bring it about. This chapter looks at places that are literally off the map, beginning with a quick quartet of facts.

LARGEST LOST CITY?

Mohenjo-Daro in modern Pakistan was the greatest city of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation. Lost for over 3,700 years, it was only rediscovered in the 1920s.



CLOUDED IN MYSTERY



'Lost' is a tiny village in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Its unusual name meant its main road sign was constantly going missing and having to be replaced.

WELCOME TO NOWHERE



The German city of Bielefeld does exist, though an internet hoax started in 1994 by a computer science student insisted it didn't. Ironically, the viral joke put the town on the map!

MAP TRAP



Argleton was a phantom town in north-west England shown on Google maps between 2008 and 2010. In fact, it was just empty fields and has now been removed.

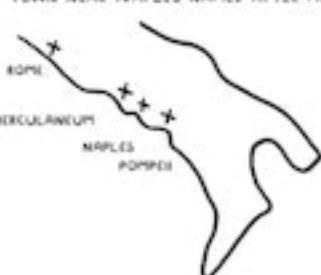


HERCULANEUM

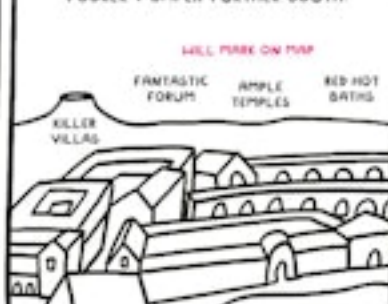
Hi, I'm HERCULES - son of ZEUS* and mythical super-hero of the ancient Greeks and Romans...



I WAS SO SPECIAL. I HAD A SEASIDE TOWN NEAR NAPLES NAMED AFTER ME.



RICH ROMANS LIVED HERE RATHER THAN POORER POMPEII FURTHER SOUTH.



HOUSES HAD PAINTED MARBLE WALLS...



AND HUGE MOSAIC FLOORS, SOME DEPICTING ME!



THERE WERE ALSO BEAUTIFUL SCULPTURES.



LIFE WAS LOVELY UNTIL ONE DAY IN OCTOBER 79 CE THE LOCAL VOLCANO ERUPTED...



FIRST, A GIANT PLUME OF HOT ASH HIT POMPEII...



THIS WARNED THE PEOPLE OF HERCULANEUM TO FLEE TO SAFETY...



MOST LEFT, BUT TRAGICALLY SEVERAL HUNDRED WERE BURIED UNDER 20 METRES OF ASH.



CENTURIES PASSED, AND THE TOWN WAS LOST UNTIL 1709 WHEN A FARMER DIGGING A WELL FOUND SOME BITS OF MARBLE...



EVEN TODAY, ONLY A QUARTER OF MY TOWN HAS BEEN REVEALED - BUT PARTLY TO ANOTHER BEING BUILT ON TOP OF IT.



PAST AND PRESENT BURIED TREASURES

TOP TOWN

The town on top of the ruins of Herculaneum used to be called Resina. In 1969, residents agreed to rename it Ercalano, a modern Italian version of the original name of the ancient Roman resort.



RAY'S OF HOPE

The Villa of the Papyri is the name of a luxury dwelling discovered in 1750. It had a library of 1,800 charred scrolls made from papyrus - an early form of paper.

PIGS MIGHT FRY

The Villa of the Papyri was home to many fine statues of Roman gods, goddesses and other mythological figures. There was also a life-size bronze of a leaping piglet - possibly a symbol of the joy to be found in feasting well.

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

Opened in 1974, The Villa Getty in Los Angeles is a copy of the Villa of the Papyri built by billionaire businessman J Paul Getty. A museum dedicated to the ancient world, visitors can experience how Herculaneum looked before it was buried alive.



MISSING PERSONS



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL
PERCY HARRISON FAWCETT

PERCY FAWCETT

Hello! I'm Lieutenant-Colonel
Percy Harrison Fawcett, and I
was born in Torquay, southern
England in 1867. I'm rather
proud of the moustache I have
in that picture of me!

SRI LANKA
(CEYLON)

Treasure?

After school, I went to military college and served as an army captain
in Ceylon (known as Sri Lanka today). One day I was told the location
of a lost buried treasure. Rushing into the forest, I found only rocks,
but the thrill of looking changed my life forever.

Back in London in
1901, I joined the Royal
Geographical Society, and
proved rather good at making
maps. So good, that in 1902, I was
sent to Morocco to map the land, though
I was actually also working as a spy for
the British government. Shh!

My secret
assignment

In 1906, the Society sent me to
South America to map the Amazon
jungle between Bolivia and Brazil.
I encountered vampire bats, flesh-
eating piranha fish and a giant
anaconda snake that was
18 metres long - but no one
at home believed me!



There were many native
tribes in the rainforest.
I gave them gifts and in
return they shared such
wonders as the double-nosed
tiger hound, which they bred
for hunting jaguars. (Again no
one believed me!)



After World War I, I returned to
South America where I found an
old document in a Brazilian library
describing a lost city with arches,
a temple, and gold. I called it 'The
Lost City of Z' - and I had
to find it! Easier said than
done. In 1920, my solo
expedition failed.

In 1925, I tried again, accompanied by my
eldest son Jack and his friend Raleigh
Rimmel. We set off into the Brazilian jungle...
One tribe later said they saw smoke from
our campfire for five days, then - nothing.
Whatever happened, 'Z' has never been found.
And neither have we!

My last letter home ended with the words, 'You need have no fear
of failure.' Well, perhaps my biggest failure was to open the way for
other explorers to come and trouble the native people. Some lost things
are better off staying lost.

our last
location



PETRA RAQMU

Hi, I'm a sandstone boulder - I look rock-hard, but I'm a softie really...



'The Treasury'

'The Monastery'

'The Royal Tomb'



So soft that the ancient people of the city of Petra could carve out these incredible buildings some 2,000 years ago.

Today, Petra is in the middle Eastern state of Jordan...



It was built by the Nabataeans, ancient Arabs now lost to history...



It grew because it was at the crossroads of two major trading routes.



The ancient Greeks called the city 'Petra' - which means 'rock'...



The Romans took it over, but it was hit by an earthquake in 363 CE.



Crusaders came in the Middle Ages, but eventually it became a 'lost' city, known only to locals...



A Swiss explorer 'rediscovered' Petra in 1812...



In 2007, an online poll named Petra one of the Seven New Wonders of the World...



And today, millions of visitors stand in awe of its ruins...



PAST AND PRESENT NEW WONDERS

LOST AND FOUND

Many people's idea of a 'lost city', the Inca mountain fortress of Machu Picchu was rediscovered in Peru in the early twentieth century. It is over 500 years old.

BIG HITTER

Completed in 1931, Christ the Redeemer is the newest of the New Seven Wonders. Standing 30 metres tall on a peak overlooking Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the iconic statue occasionally gets struck by lightning!

HIGHER MAYA

Chichén Itzá, Mexico, was a city built by the Mayan people over 1,500 years ago. Its largest pyramid, El Castillo, is 30 metres tall and topped with a temple.

DEAD FAMOUS

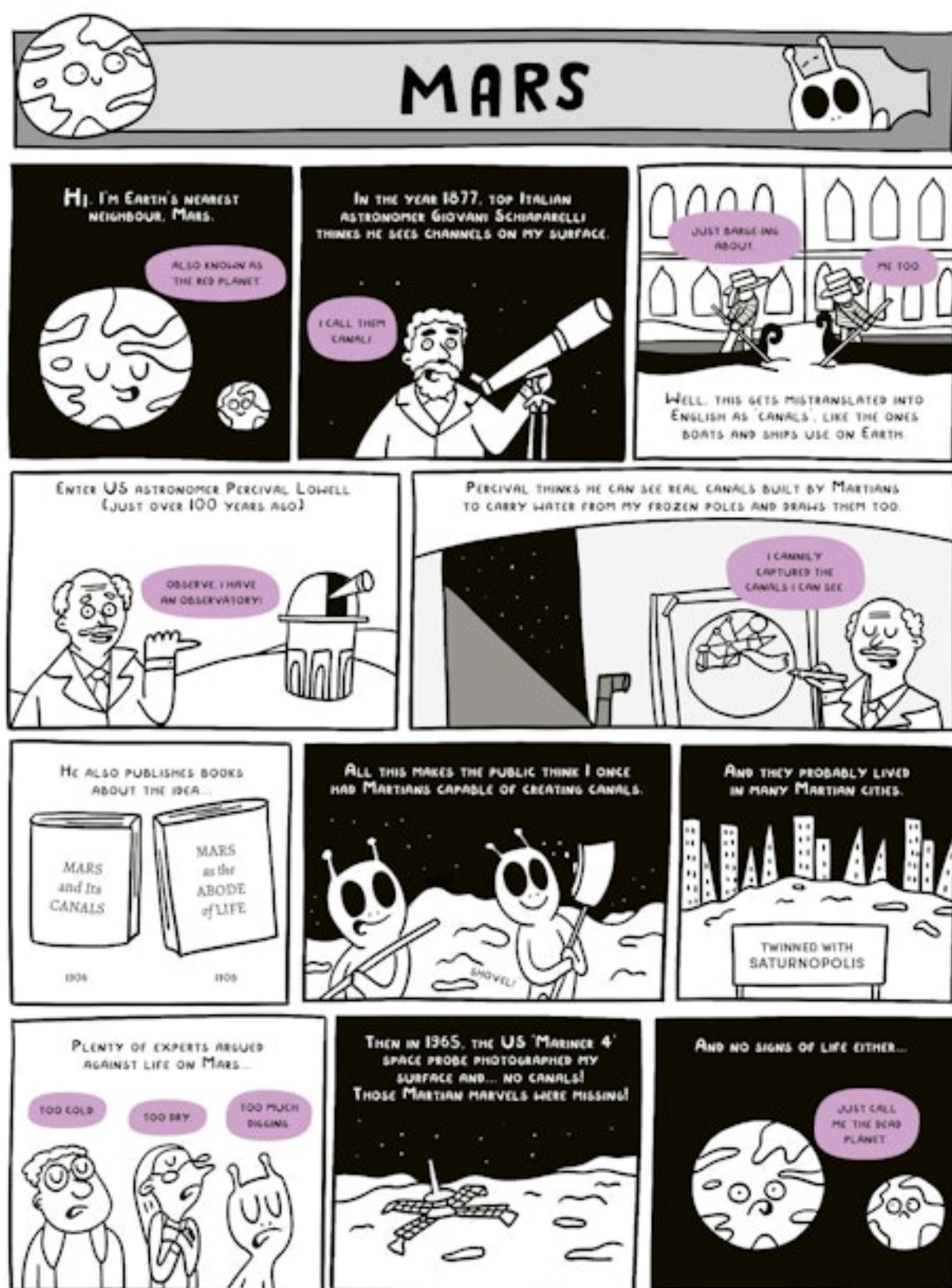
India's Taj Mahal is a white marble tomb built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan to house his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. Finished in 1653 CE, he also rests inside.

COLOSSAL SIZE

Rome's Colosseum is the largest ancient amphitheatre ever built. Finished in 80 BCE, it staged gladiator fights as well as cruel animal hunts and human executions.

WONDER WALL

The oldest of the 'Seven New Wonders', China's Great Wall is over 21,000 km long, with parts dating back more than 2,700 years. The most iconic sections were built during the Middle Ages.





OLDEST RESIDENTS

Humans have been choosing to gather together in groups - and then moan about their neighbours - for thousands of years. Here are the oldest continuously inhabited places on each of Earth's continents.

EUROPE



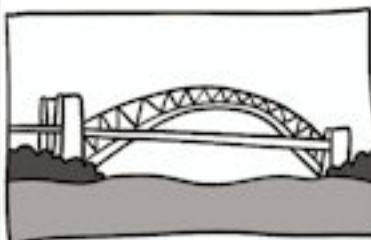
Ploudiv, Bulgaria, has evidence of stone age settlements dating back about 8,000 years.

WESTERN ASIA



Syria is home to Damascus - the world's oldest continuously inhabited capital city - and Aleppo, where finds have been dated back over 11,000 years.

AUSTRALASIA



Evidence suggests that Aboriginal people lived around Sydney, Australia, more than 30,000 years ago.

NORTH AMERICA



People have lived in Cholula, a district of Puebla, Mexico, for about 3,000 years. Its Great Pyramid is the largest by volume of any in the world.

AFRICA



Girga in Egypt has been occupied for over 5,000 years and may have been the base for the first ever pharaoh, Narmer.

SOUTH AMERICA



Cusco, Peru - capital of the Inca empire for centuries - was started by the Killike people about 1100 CE.

ANTARCTICA



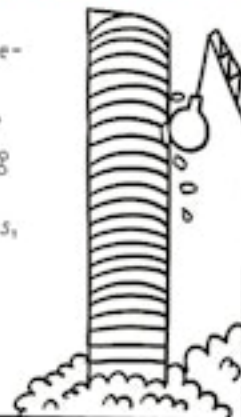
Orcadas Base is the continent's oldest permanently inhabited research station. It was started in 1903 by a Scottish Antarctic expedition and can fall as cold as -44 degrees Celsius. Brrr!



Modern cities all have buildings that come and go, while others may become lasting landmarks, like the Statue of Liberty in New York, or the Sydney Opera House, Australia. In this section, we look at long-gone buildings, with four fab facts for our foundations.

TALLEST TOTALLED TOWER

In 2013, the 234-metre-high AXA Tower in Singapore became the world's tallest building to be demolished on purpose. At 305 metres, its replacement will then be the city's tallest skyscraper.



ALMOST-TOTALLED TOWER



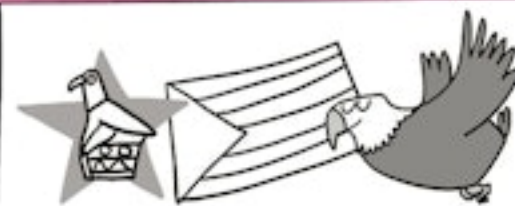
The Eiffel Tower, Paris, is one of the world's most famous landmarks. Completed in 1889, it was to stand for 20 years and then be pulled down for scrap metal, but was saved by becoming a mast for radio signals.

MOSTLY-MISSING PALACE



The UK's Houses of Parliament in Westminster, London, was home to kings and queens in the Middle Ages. Today, only a single 1,000 year old meeting hall survives.

FLYING THE FLAG



Great Zimbabwe is a medieval stone-built palace that gave its name to the modern African country of Zimbabwe. Now largely in ruins, its carved stone eagles inspired the one on the national flag!



GREAT LIBRARY

Hi, I'm ALEXANDER THE GREAT. Isn't it 'GREAT' to see me again?!



AFTER I DIED IN 323 BCE, MY CITY OF ALEXANDRIA WAS RULED BY KINGS CALLED 'PTOLEMY'.

MY P IS SILENT

GLAD TO HEAR IT, SIR!



AROUND 285 BCE, ONE OF THE FIRST PTOLEMIES HAD A 'GREAT' IDEA...

LET'S BUILD THE WORLD'S LARGEST LIBRARY!

JUST THE PICKET KING PTOLEMY!



NO ONE NOW KNOWS WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE...

BUT IT WAS PART OF A MASSIVE TEMPLE DEDICATED TO NINE GREEK GODDESSES CALLED THE MUSES...

HE SHOULD FORM A GIRL BAND!



CALLIO POLYHYMNIA TERPSICHOE THALIA URANIA MELPOMENE ERATO EUTERPE CLIO

THIS ANCIENT BUILDING GAVE YOU THE MODERN WORD 'MUSEUM'...

MUSEUM



I SEE YOU HAVE THE SCROLLS!

THAT'S WHY I WALK LIKE THIS!



TOP SCHOLARS LIVED AT THE LIBRARY AND STUDIED THEM INTENSELY.

I LOVE TO STROLL WITH A SCROLL!

ME TOO!



ITS FIRST HEAD LIBRARIAN, ZENODOTUS, INVENTED ARRANGING NAMES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

BUT THAT MEANS YOU'LL COME LAST.

OOPS!



AT ITS PEAK, THE LIBRARY HOUSED ALL THE ANCIENT WORLD'S GREATEST WORKS...

GREAT WORK WITH ALL THESE GREAT WORKS, HEAD LIBRARIAN!

THANKS!



BUT AT SOME POINT AROUND 290 CE, THE LIBRARY WAS DESTROYED AND ITS LOCATION LOST...



THAT IS SO NOT GREAT - UNLIKE ME!



PAST AND PRESENT SHELF LIVES

GREAT NEWS

Opened in 2002, the **Bibliotheca** Alexandria, Egypt, is a new library to replace the lost one. Visitors can access over 8 million books and, unlike the ancient original, it has a planetarium, model dinosaurs and a dedicated children's library!

WHOLLY HOLY

Egypt is also home to the world's oldest operating library. Founded over 1,400 years ago, the library of the Monastery of Saint Catherine in Sinai has many early texts relating to the Middle East's three biggest religions.

FLUSH FICTION

The Beitou branch of the Taipei public library, Taiwan, has been built with a living roof that collects rainwater and big windows that save on electricity. Captured rainwater is used to flush the library's loo!

PROUD CLOUD

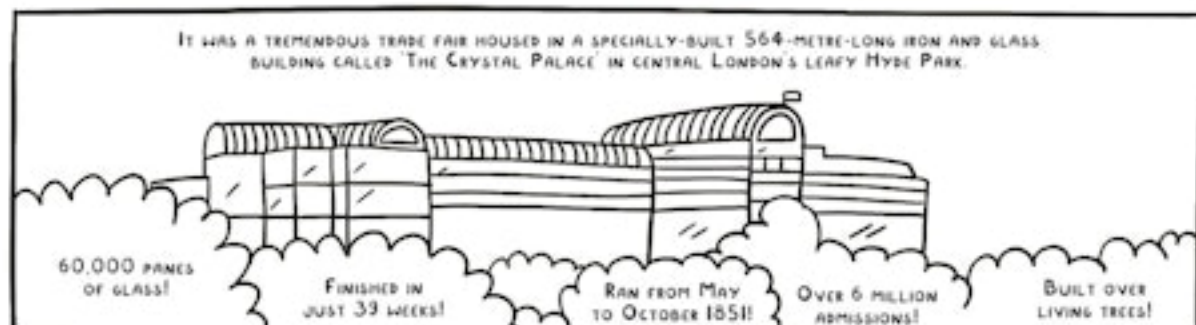
Many modern libraries are marvels of architecture. Calgary Central Library in Alberta, Canada, was designed to look like a giant cloud and has won many important building awards. It was officially opened in 2018 - by an astronaut!

TOY STORIES

New York's Public Library, opened in 1895, is the world's fourth largest, after libraries in Moscow, London and Washington DC. However, only New York displays the original soft toys that inspired English author AA Milne to write his *Winnie the Pooh* stories!



THE CRYSTAL PALACE



PAST AND PRESENT PARK LIFE



BADGE OF HONOUR

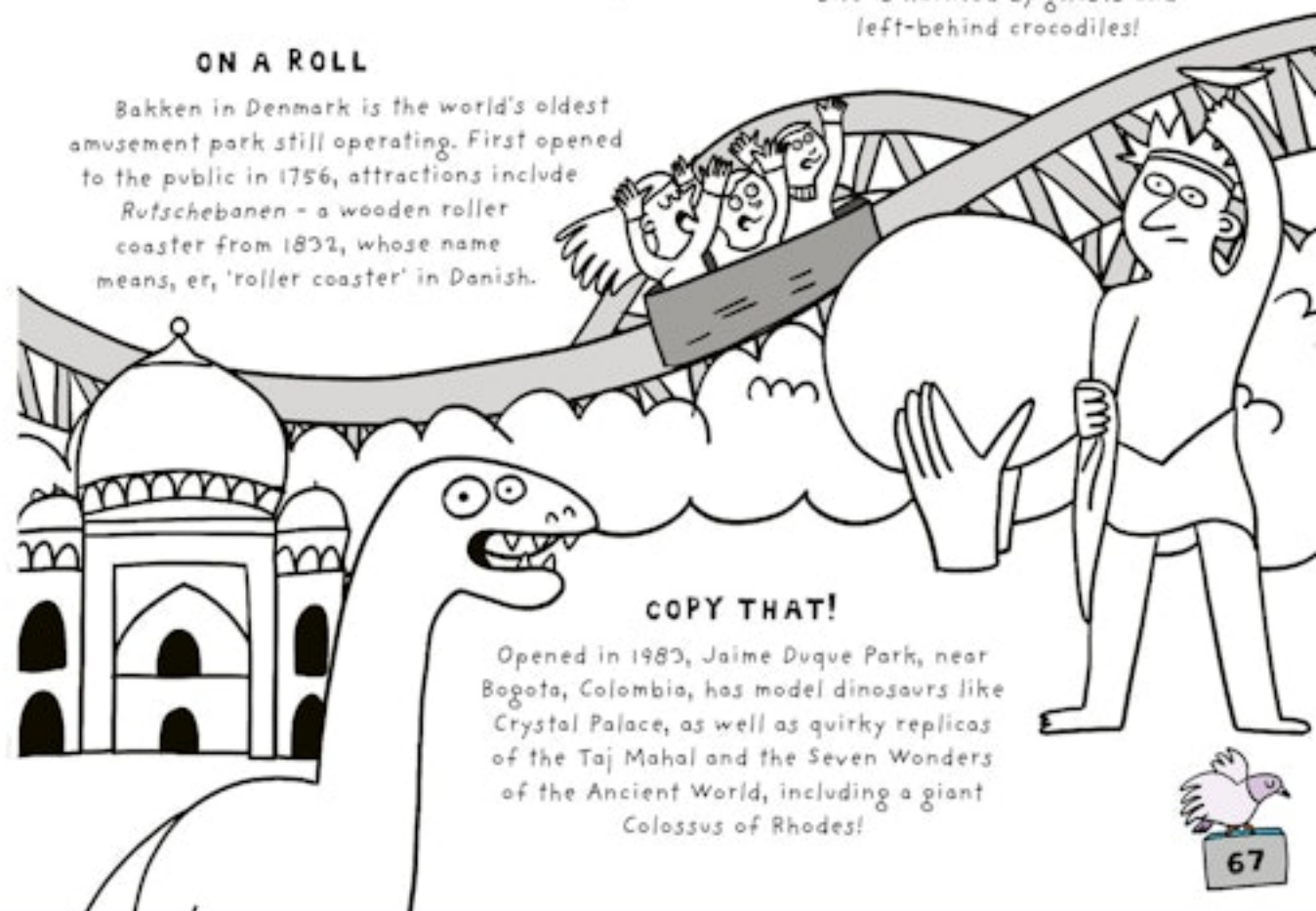
A Chinese billionaire had plans to rebuild the Crystal Palace, but this hasn't happened yet. Instead, though still a ruin, it gave its name to a major English football team and features on their badge!

SHOCKING STATE

Taman Festival, on the east coast of the Indonesian island of Bali is a huge abandoned theme park now overrun by thick jungle. According to local legend, the site is haunted by ghosts and left-behind crocodiles!

ON A ROLL

Bakken in Denmark is the world's oldest amusement park still operating. First opened to the public in 1756, attractions include Rutschebanen - a wooden roller coaster from 1832, whose name means, er, 'roller coaster' in Danish.



COPY THAT!

Opened in 1983, Jaime Duque Park, near Bogota, Colombia, has model dinosaurs like Crystal Palace, as well as quirky replicas of the Taj Mahal and the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, including a giant Colossus of Rhodes!

MISSING PERSONS

ENNIGALDI-NANNA

Hi! My name is Ennigaldi-Nanna. Well, that's one name for me, as I shall explain shortly. As to whether that picture is what I looked like, I can't tell you, but that's how a Mesopotamian priestess may have appeared over 2,500 years ago.

ENNIGALDI-NANNA

Mesopotamia is the ancient land that lay between the Euphrates river and the Tigris river in what you humans now call southern Iraq. I lived in a city called Ur. No, I haven't forgotten. That really was its name.

Dad!

Me!

I said I was a priestess. Well, I was also a princess. My dad was a Babylonian king called Nabonidus who ruled from 556 to 539 BCE. He loved to learn about his own kingdom's past and was an early ancient archaeologist.

Loving the past so much, he brought back the role of 'entu' or High Priestess of Ur, a position which hadn't existed for centuries. You had to be female and have royal blood to do it, which is why I got the job.

Sin



My original name was Bel-Shalti-Nanna, but became Ennigaldi-Nanna when, as High Priestess, I became the human Earth-wife for the moon-god Sin. That may sound weird to you, but the Moon and the Sun were very important to ancient peoples.

As the Moon's wife, I worshipped Sin in the evenings in a small blue room on top of Ur's giant stone temple called a Ziggurat. I also had a little office below where I lived and helped run everything religious. Oh, and I had to pray for Dad, too.

Well, Dad's interest in archaeology rubbed off on me, and I began collecting and restoring objects from Mesopotamia's ancient past. I made labels for them using words pressed into wet clay drums, and displayed them all in a special building.

Some fine finds

A lot later, in 1925 CE - long after Dad, me and Ur had disappeared - a British archaeologist dug up my collection and realised I had made the world's oldest known 'museum'. Where my own remains ended up no one knows, but many of my finds are now in a big museum in Iraq's capital Baghdad. Hooray!





CASE STUDIES

Keen collectors have been cramming cases with exhibits and showing them off for many centuries. Here are some arty facts about some artefacts.

The **Capitoline Museums** in Rome, Italy, are the world's oldest surviving public museums. Opened in 1743, they house a famous bronze sculpture of a she-wolf with Romulus and Remus, the mythical founders of Rome.

Cancun, Mexico, has an **Underwater Museum** where you can take a deep dive to see hundreds of sunken fibreglass sculptures.

Ekine, Japan has a museum dedicated to rice. Housed in a former traditional wooden school, it's the perfect place to learn about this fluffy white foodstuff!

A branch of Britain's **Natural History Museum** in Tring, not far from London, has two tiny fleas on display dressed in traditional Mexican costumes. Itching to see them?

The **Potato Museum** in Blackfoot, Idaho, USA highlights the history of the humble spud. All eyes, however, are drawn to its prize exhibit - the world's largest potato crisp, over 60 cm long!

Need a quiet sit down? Head to the **Sulabh International Museum of Toilets** in New Delhi, India, with its potted history of hygiene. You'll come away flushed with pride!

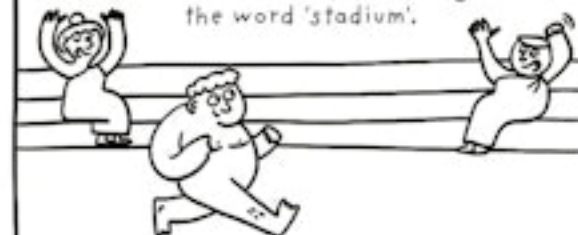


PAST PASTIMES

Humans have occupied Earth for some 300,000 years, and when not busy working to find food and protect their families, have occupied themselves with a vast variety of games, hobbies and artistic interests. This section starts with four fab facts.

OLDEST OLYMPIC EVENT

The longest-running Olympic event is, er, running, seen at the very first games in ancient Greece in 776 BCE. Known as the stadion, the race gave us the word 'stadium'.



DULLEST OLYMPIC SPORT

Many events have been cut from the modern games. 'Distance plunging' in which swimmers simply drifted from a shallow dive was declared the most boring to watch.



EARLIEST RECORDED RECORDER

A 60,000 year old flute carved from a cave bear bone dates back to Neanderthal times. Found in Slovenia in 1995, it is the oldest known musical instrument.



MOST MISSING MOVIE

Many early movies are lost, including a vampire mystery from 1927 called 'London After Midnight'. A single surviving film poster sold for \$478,000 in 2014 - a world record.



GLOBE THEATRE



GADZOOKS, I AM THE BALD BUT BRILLIANT PLAYWRIGHT WILLIAM 'WILL' SHAKESPEARE...

LET ME TELL YOU A MOVING TALE



AROUND 1585, I MOVED TO LONDON FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE...

NOT FROM AROUND HERE!

HOW CAN YOU TELL?



BUT, BY 1597, I WAS AN ACTOR AND WRITER IN AN EAST LONDON THEATRE CALLED, ER, THE THEATRE.

WELCOME TO YH THEATRE

NOT A VERY ORIGINAL NAME

IT'S WORKING ON IT.



I WAS PART OF A COMPANY OF PLAYERS, HEADED BY STAR ACTOR RICHARD BURSAGE, BUT WE HAD A PROBLEM...

OUR LANDLORD CLAIMS OUR THEATRE BELONGS TO HIM!

FEAR NOT, WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY!



WHILE THE LANDLORD WAS AWAY, WE SECRETLY DISMANTLED THE THEATRE, TOOK IT ACROSS THE RIVER THAMES, AND REBUILT IT...

I SAID THIS WAS A MOVING TALE, PUFF! PAINT!



WE CALLED OUR NEW THEATRE 'THE GLOBE', WITH A HANDY FLAG ON TOP AS MOST PEOPLE COULDN'T READ...

LOOK THE EARTH

OR MAYBE THE PLANET!



A THATCHED WOODEN 'O', IT HAD ROOM FOR 3000 PEOPLE.



RICH ONES SAT FAR FROM THE STAGE, WHILE SMELLY POOR ONES HUBBLED IN THE MIDDLE.

THIS PLAY STINKS!

BUT NOT AS MUCH AS THE AUDIENCE!



WE OPENED IN 1599. THEN IN 1613, DURING ONE OF MY PLAYS, A STAGE CANNON SET THE THEATRE ALIGHT.

THE ACTORS ARE ON FIRE TONIGHT!

ME TOO! (EEK)



IT WAS DESTROYED IN JUST TWO HOURS.

WELL, HELL, YOUR PLAY CERTAINLY BROUGHT THE HOUSE DOWN

SMOULDER!

UHP SORRY.



A NEW GLOBE WAS BUILT ON THE SAME SPOT IN 1614.

LOOK THE EARTH IS BACK!

THE PLANET, SURELY!

NOT AGAIN, SIGH!



IT WAS PULLED DOWN AROUND 1644 AND ITS RUINS LAY HIDDEN UNDER A CAR PARK UNTIL 1989...

LOOK THE LOST GLOBE THEATRE!

VERILY, I LOVE A DRAMATIC ENDING!



PAST AND PRESENT WILL POWER

RAISING THE ROOF

Shakespeare's Globe is a modern replica of the Globe Theatre, close to its original site. Opened to playgoers in 1997, it was the capital's first - and only - thatched building since the Great Fire of London in 1666.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Just six of Shakespeare's signatures have survived. They are all on legal documents and in each instance, Shakespeare - the world's most famous writer - spells his name differently!



TAKE HIS WORD FOR IT!

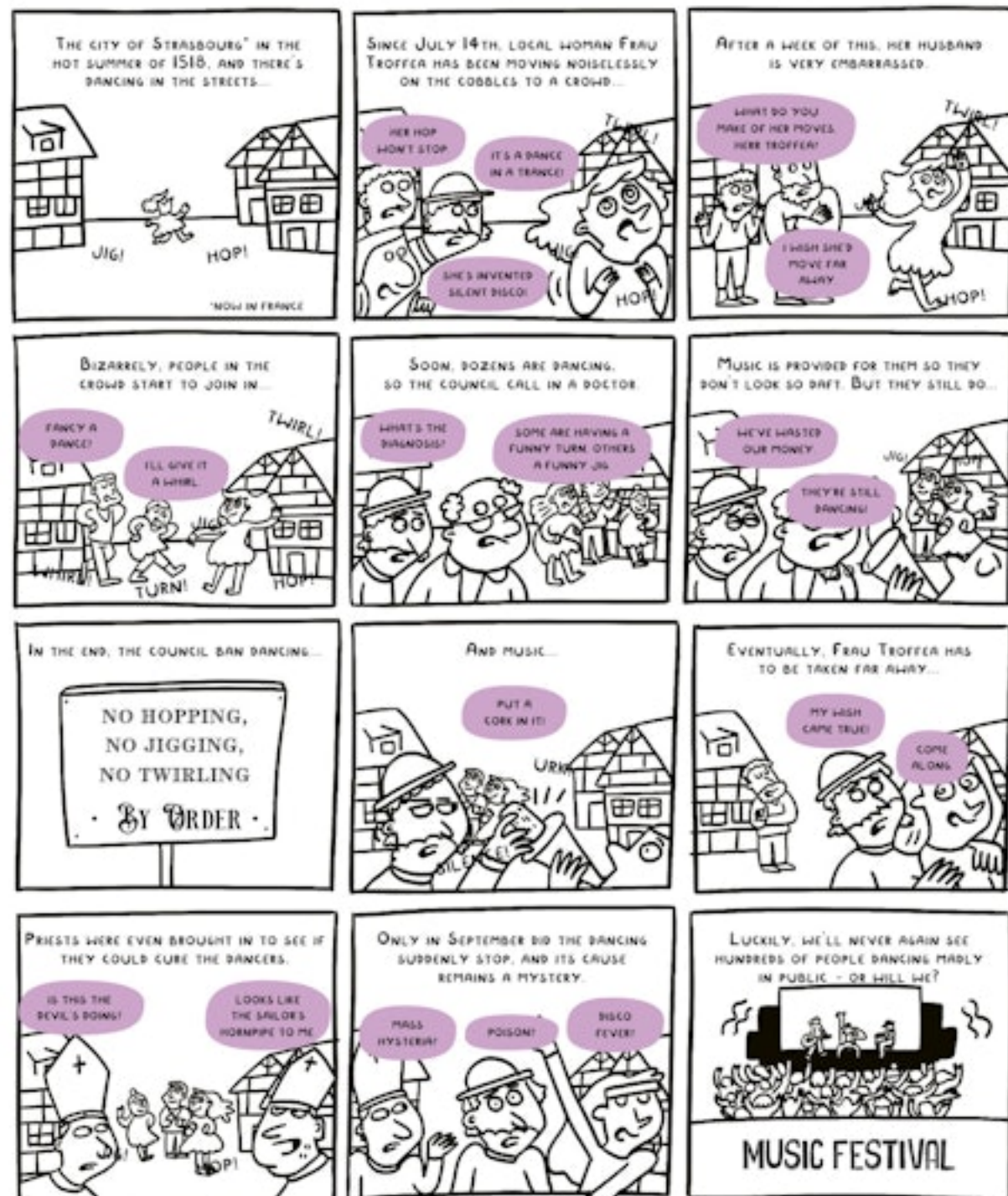
Shakespeare's plays were published after his death in a book known as the First Folio. They included hundreds of words used today, such as kissing, and zany, and the classic joke set-up, 'Knock, knock, who's there?'

GIMME SOME SPACE

Shakespeare's plays are still performed on stage and in movies, often with new settings for a contemporary audiences. One famous science fiction film, *Forbidden Planet*, set one of his plays (*The Tempest*) in space and featured a giant robot named Robby!



DANCING PLAGUE



PAST AND PRESENT TAKING STEPS

MARATHON EFFORT

Dance marathons were competitions where American audiences watched couples dance nonstop, only getting 15 minutes of rest each hour. In 1950, hairdresser Callum Devillier and his partner Vonnie Kuchinski danced for over 5 months, becoming world champions and winning \$1000.

TWISTY SIXTIES

The rock and roll music of the 1960s inspired many crazy new dances including the Mashed Potato, the Chicken Walk, the Frug, the Watusi, the Loco-Motion and - most famously - the Twist, which lives on today as a key move in 'Dad-Dancing'.

CRACKER OF A HAKA

The haka is a traditional dance created by the Maori people of Aotearoa (New Zealand). In September 2024, a crowd of 6,467 people performed at Eden Park sports stadium to win back a world record previously held by France.

HOP IT!

In 2012, South Korean K-pop performer Psy released a video for his song 'Gangnam Style' in which he mimed riding a horse while spinning a lasso. His moves were a hit worldwide, but Psy originally considered dancing like a panda or a kangaroo. How does a panda dance?

BIHU-RAY!

Bihu is a colourful group dance from the Indian state of Assam, where men and women sing and move to the playing of drums. In April 2023, 11,298 people joined in a world-beating bihu, smashing the former figure of just 500!

MISSING PERSONS

'THE CREATURE'

Hello. I'm 'The Creature'. Not a very flattering name, is it? And that isn't exactly a flattering picture of me, though quite accurate, sadly.

I was created by a nineteen year old woman novelist called Mary Godwin. She fell in love with a famous English poet called Percy Bysshe Shelley, who was already married, causing a big scandal, though Mary and Percy did marry later.

In the summer of 1816, Percy, Mary, and her step-sister Claire had a summer holiday on the shores of Lake Geneva in Switzerland. Only it was more like winter than summer, with constant rain, thunder and lightning.

Also staying nearby was another famous English poet, Lord Byron, and his personal physician Doctor Polidori. Bored of being imprisoned indoors by the weather, the group of friends started a contest to come up with a ghost story.

Mary struggled for an idea, until she had a nightmare vision of a mad university student called Victor Frankenstein trying to create a new living person using body parts stolen from corpses and animal slaughterhouses.



You guessed it. That 'monster' was me - 2.4 metres tall, heavily built, and with yellow eyes and skin. I was a shocking sight, and my anger at being hated by humans made me kill, though all I really wanted was someone to share my life with.

Mary's monster horror story won amongst her group of friends, and it was later published as a novel in January 1818 under the title 'Frankenstein'. The book made her famous, and has been turned into many scary plays, films, and TV series over the centuries.

Her story ends with Victor chasing me to the icy seas near the North Pole to try and kill his creation. However, the tables get turned and it is Victor who dies, while I escape over the ice, never to be seen again. (Though you might just want to check under your bed tonight...)





MONA LISA

TODAY, THIS IS THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS ARTWORK...



The 'MONA LISA' aka 'LA GIOCONDA'

IT WAS CREATED OVER 500 YEARS AGO BY BALSY, BEARDY ITALIAN GENIUS LEONARDO DA VINCI.



I'M AN OIL PAINTER - UNLIKE HER!

THE LOUVRE



I'M DESPERATE TO GET TO THE LOUVRE!

ME TOO!



SINCE 1797, THE PAINTING WAS DISPLAYED AT THE LOUVRE IN PARIS, FRANCE - THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSEUM...

NOT THAT VISITORS PAID MONA MUCH ATTENTION...



OH I'M OVER HERE!

EVER GET THE FEELING YOU'RE BEING WATCHED?

THEN, ON 21ST AUGUST 1911, THE PAINTING DISAPPEARED.



WE LOST OUR LISA!

GONE!

THE MONA IS A GONNA!

THE THEFT WAS WORLD NEWS...



BIZARRELY, PEOPLE CAME IN HUGE NUMBERS TO VIEW WHERE SHE HAD ONCE HUNG.



GREAT USE OF (EMPTY SPACE)

A MASTERPIECE!

STILL GONE!

POLICE HAD MANY SUSPECTS, INCLUDING FAMOUS MODERN ARTIST PABLO PICASSO.



YOU STOLE IT!

YOU CAN'T FRAME ME I'M INNOCENT!

BUT THE REAL THIEF WAS A GALLERY HANDSMAN CALLED VINCENZO PERUGIA WHO SMUGGLED IT OUT.



UNDER THE COVER OF MY OVERALLS! HA!

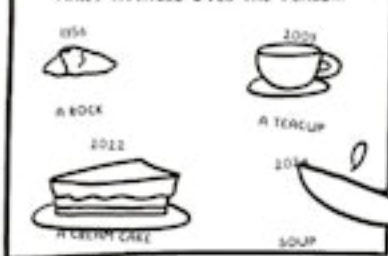
TWO YEARS LATER, HE WAS CAUGHT TRYING TO SELL IT TO AN ART GALLERY.



WHAT WILL YOU GIVE ME FOR THIS?

JAIL! YOU'RE NICKED!

BEING STOLEN MADE MONA LISA FAMOUS, BUT ALSO THE SUBJECT OF MANY ATTACKS OVER THE YEARS...



1956 A ROCK

2009 A TEACUP

2012 A CAKE

2013 SOUP

LUCKILY, SHE IS NOW BEHIND BULLETPROOF GLASS.



STILL SPILING!

PAST AND PRESENT DISASTERPIECES

SAFETY FIRST

In the 1960s, concerned about further damage or theft, the Louvre looked at getting Mona Lisa insured. She was valued at \$100 million - still a world record for a painting - but they decided it was cheaper to simply improve security precautions.

VALUE: \$100,000,000

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

Dulwich Picture Gallery in south London, UK, has the world's most stolen painting. Their 1632 Portrait of Jacob III de Gheyn by Dutch master Rembrandt van Rijn has been stolen - and returned - four times, earning it the nickname the 'Takeaway Rembrandt'.



MONEY IN THE BANKSY

British graffiti artist Banksy destroyed one of his own artworks by remote control, just after it had been sold at auction for \$1.4 million in 2018. The same shredded picture, retitled Love is in the Bin, then sold for \$25 million in 2021. Go figure!

COMPLETELY ARMLESS

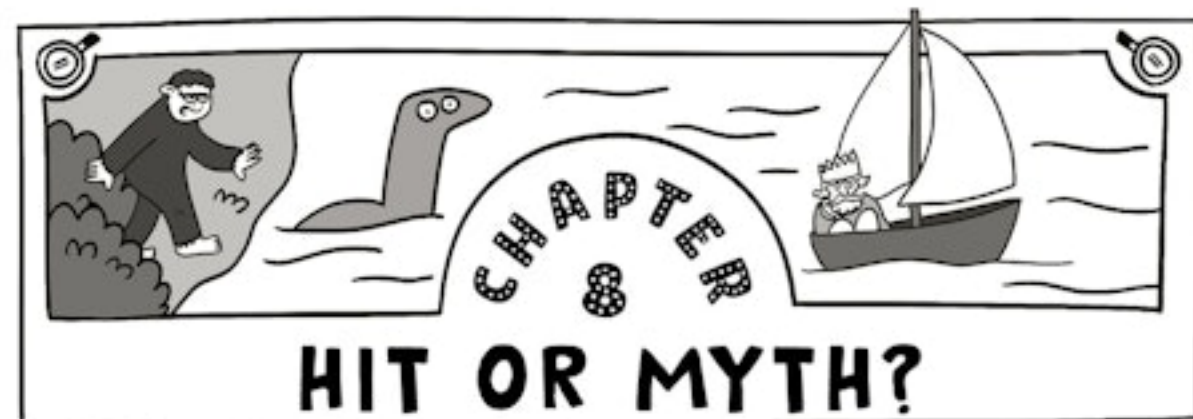
Also on show in the Louvre is the Venus de Milo. This ancient Greek marble sculpture was discovered in 1820, and is one of the world's most famous statues despite missing her arms, a left foot, and both earlobes.



GONE DUTCH

The most valuable painting still missing is said to be The Concert by another Dutch master, Johannes Vermeer. It was stolen from a US gallery by thieves dressed as police officers in 1990, and is worth at least \$250 million.





Some marvels are missing for a very simple reason: they never existed in the first place. However, everyone loves a legend, so in this section we get real and investigate some famous fables, beginning with four fabulous 'facts'.

WORLD'S BIGGEST MYSTERY?



MOST BEASTLY BEAST



BEST SCHOOL PRANK?



BIGGEST STITCH UP?



KING ARTHUR



MISSING PERSONS

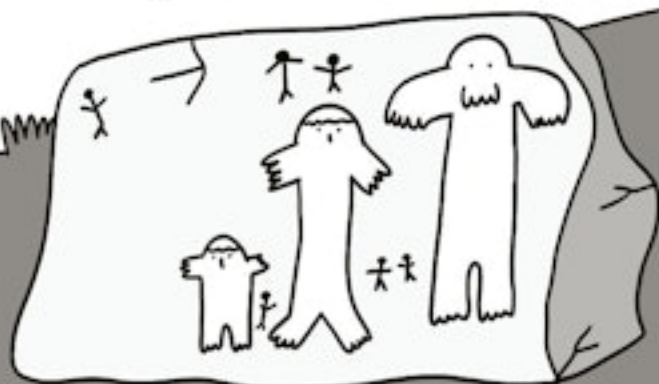
'BIGFOOT'



NOT ME!

Hello! My name is, well, I'm not going to reveal it right away. Let's just say for now, you can call me 'Bigfoot' or 'Sasquatch' if you like. And some of you think I probably look like that picture you can see.

I can tell you one thing for an absolute fact: where I live. It's a huge area of remote forested land known to humans as the Pacific Northwest, and includes several states of the USA and the Canadian district of British Columbia.



This is a strange thing. It is a rock with a painting on it that some say depicts large, hairy human-like apes. Over 1,000 years old, it was found in California, and made by native American Indians. Is this a family of Bigfoots? (Or should that be Bigfeet?)

In British Columbia, they prefer the term 'Sasquatch', taken from a local First Nations language. It was used in 1929 for a magazine article about 'hairy giants' who lived in caves and tunnels by a writer called J W Burns.

A big foot

'Bigfoot' came about in 1958. A man called Jerry Crew working for a logging company in California discovered giant human-like footprints in the muddy forest floor, and a plaster cast of a 40cm long foot was made. This 'Bigfoot' was big news!

Most famously, a Bigfoot was briefly filmed walking through a remote forest in Northern California in October, 1967. Known as the Patterson-Gimlin film after the pair who shot it, it still remains the best 'evidence' of me after almost 60 years.

But, here's the problem. Those 'Bigfoot' tracks were revealed in 2002 to have been a prank played by a workmate using giant carved wooden feet. Some say the film is just a man in a gorilla suit, and science has never discovered any Bigfoot DNA.

So, who am I really? Probably just one of many American black bears that live in the exact same area as 'Bigfoot'. We can stand on two legs, making us over 2 metres tall, and hairy and scary with it. Sorry about that 'Bigfoot' - missing you already...

The real me

A fake foot



LOCH NESS MONSTER

Hi! I'm a PLESIOSAUR - A MARINE REPTILE THAT DIED OUT WITH THE DINOSAURS 66 MILLION YEARS AGO.

Ugh!

SEE YOU TOMORROW!

I DOUBT IT... (ERI)

UNLESS YOU BELIEVE THIS PHOTO FROM 1934 IS REAL.

THE SURGEON'S PHOTOGRAPH

SNAPPED AT LOCH NESS IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS, IT MADE FRONT PAGE NEWS.

Daily Blah

MONSTER IN LOCH EXISTS!

BUT IT WAS JUST A HOAX USING A TOY SUBMARINE AND A MODEL SEA-SERPENT HEAD...

HE MONSTERED THE MEDIA!

ONLY REVEALED IN 1973!

STORIES OF A LOCAL 'WATER BEAST' BY THE LOCH GO BACK ALMOST 1500 YEARS. WHEN IT IS SAID A SAINT STOPPED ONE EATING A SWIMMER...

WASN'T THAT HUNGRY ANYWAY?

BEGONE!

SWIM!

PEOPLE FLOCKED TO THE LOCH FROM 1934 ONWARDS AND OTHER 'SIGHTINGS' FOLLOWED...

1951 1955 1972

HOWEVER, SCEPTICAL EXPERTS HAD THEIR OWN EXPLANATIONS...

ROTTING TREES?

SEALS?

OTTERS?

I KNOW FOR SURE IT'S NOT ME!

THE MOST RECENT THEORY IS 'NESSIE' MAY BE A GIANT EEL...

IT'S A SUITABLY SLIPPERY CUSTOMER!

HERE'S WHY IT CAN'T BE ME...

1. Loch was solid ice in the past...
2. I lived in salty seas, not fresh water...
3. Would need to keep popping up to breathe...
4. Not enough fish to feed a breeding population...

OH, AND ONE MORE LITTLE THING...

I'M EXTINCT!

PAST AND PRESENT MONSTER FUN

CHEEKY-NESS

Many hoaxers are still attracted to the loch and its legend. In 1977, an English magician claimed to have summoned the monster from the water with a spell, but his model looked so fake it was dubbed the Loch Ness Muppet!



SILLY-NESS

Nessie photos used to be blurry, black and white blobs, but modern technology is not necessarily better. In 2014, an online satellite map service seemed to show a scary monster looming in the loch. In fact, it was just waves of water made by a boat.



HAPPY-NESS

Nessie-specialist Steve Feltham has been living in a van on the shores of Loch Ness since 1991 - so long that he holds the world record for Nessie-hunting. Determined to debunk fake photos and sightings, he also sells little model monsters to tourists.



LIKE-NESS?

In 2021, British canoeist Richard Mavor was on a charity paddle around Loch Ness, filming his progress with a drone. After posting footage online, someone spotted a strange shape lurking under the water. Guess what - it looked like a plesiosaur!

