















For Jessica, who has done an M.B.

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





# CANONBALL



INCREDIBLE JOBS







First published in the UK in 2025 by Templar Books, an imprint of Bonnier Books UK 5th Floor, HYLO, 103-105 Burshill Row, London, ECTY 8LZ Owned by Bonnier Books Sveavigen 56, Stockholm, Sweden www.bonnierbooks.co.uk

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ISBN 978-1-80078-373-7

This book was typeset in Providence Sans, Bokka, Chubby Chap and Mind Boggle. The illustrations were created digitally. Edited by Sophie Hallam Fact-checked by Elaine Rhodes Designed by Anna Ring Production by Neil Randles

Printed in China





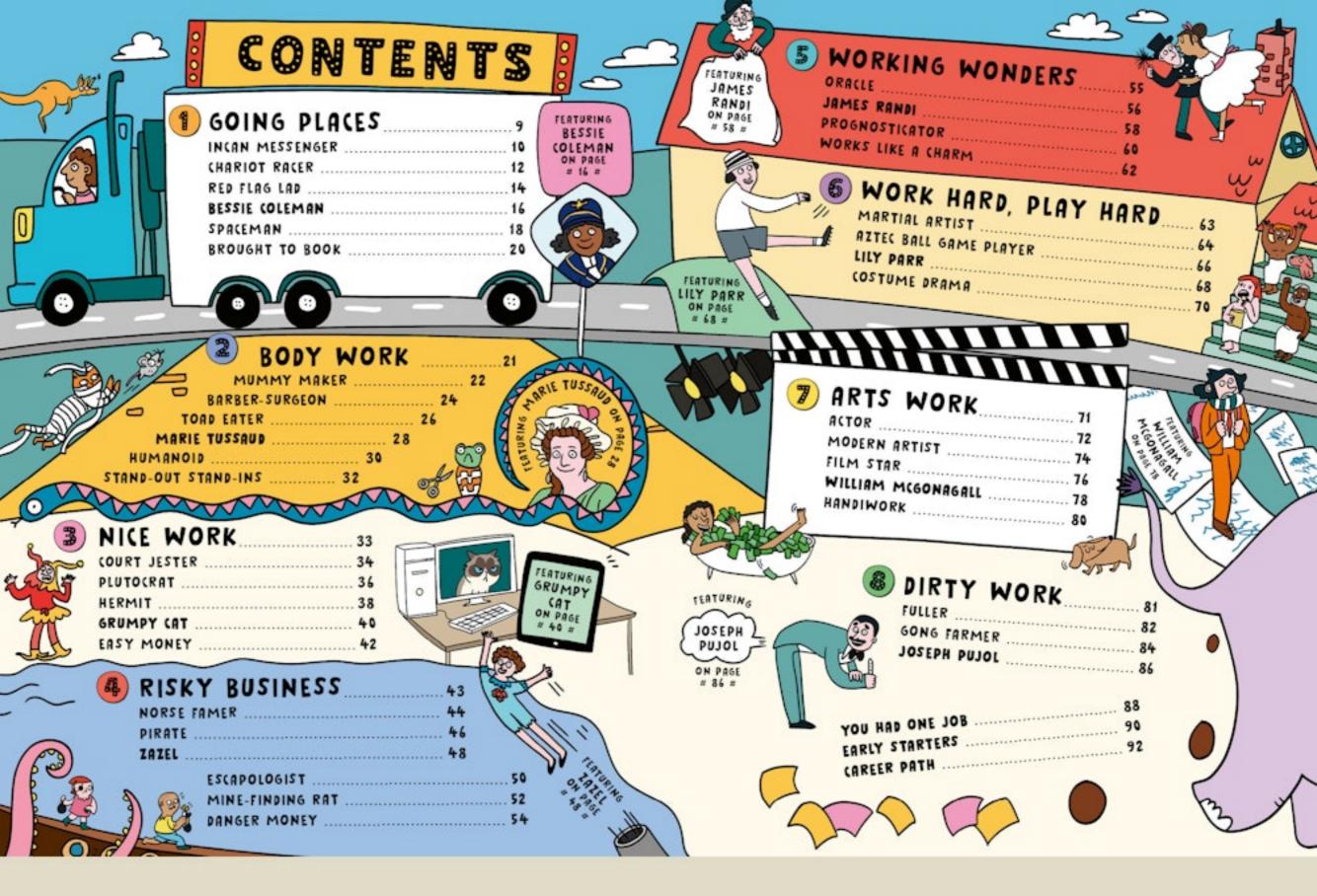


FRANZISKA HÖLLBACHER





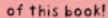




# INTRODUCTION

Hello, and CONGRATULATIONS on winning the very important job of

# READER-IN-CHIEF











D







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!







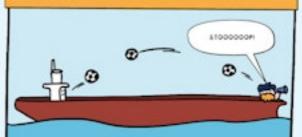
Early humans moved around in search of food. Simply surviving was a job in itself. Since we settled down, there have been lots of odd occupations, past and present, that involve transport or travel. That's what this first chapter is all about, so here are four fab facts to get you going!

### 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!

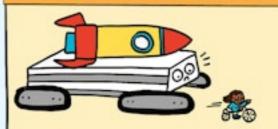


### WORLD'S LONGEST SHIP



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!

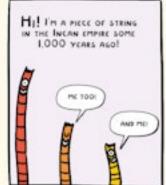
### FIRST AIR STEWARDS

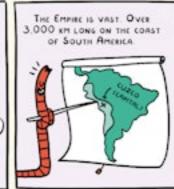


For men, starting in 1912, German Heinrich Kubis served on giant Zeppelin airships. For women, American Ellen Church (a trained pilot) began stewarding planes in 1930.

# INCAN MI























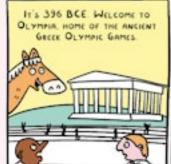






# CHARIOT RACER

















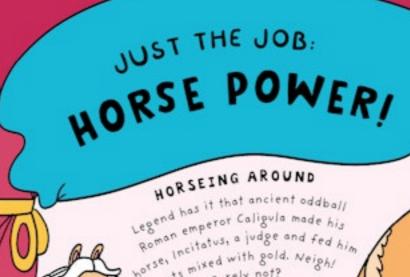




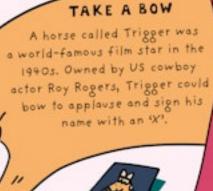




MEANHHILE, OUR DINNER, PRINCESS KYNISKA

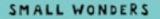


oats mixed with gold. Neigh



### 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.



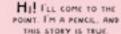
Miniature horses can replace dogs as guides for the visually impaired. Unlike dogs, horses' eyes face sideways and they can spot potential hazards over a much wider area.





# RED FLAG LAD



























# 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!



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 Lov 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!







# SPACEMAN





























JUST THE JOB:

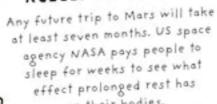
GIMME SOME

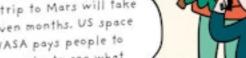
**SPACE!** 

SOFT JOBS

Soft toys play a part in space travel, floating about harmlessly when zero-gravity conditions have been reached. And they are fun!

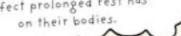
# astronauts in space. Phoney!





Bessie Coleman (see pages 16-17).

THIS JOB STINKS!



# TASTE OF SPACE

The European Space Agency (ESA) asked French chefs to create dishes using crops that might grow on Mars. The result? Pond slime pasta (yumi) and a Martian bread with green tomato jam.

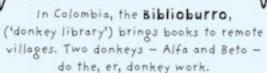


# WORLD WORLD WORLD

# BROUGHT TO BOOK

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







In Mongolia, canels 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!

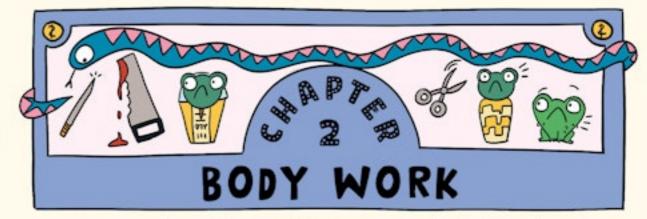


In southern Italy, a retired teacher travels round in a bright blue book house with a tiled roof and a little chimney. Smoking!

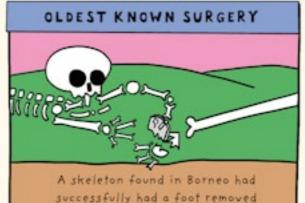
In Argentina, an artist turned a car into a **tank** that drives round offering free books. Take cover!



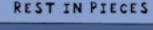
Books ahoy! Remote islands in Sweden get visited twice a year by the **bokbaten** ("book boot").



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!



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





Three hundred years ago, thieves known as body-snatchers 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!

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# MUMMY MAKER



HI! I'M A CHIEF EMBALMER IN ANCIENT EAYPT OVER 3.000 YEARS AGO, PRESERVING THE CORPLES OF KINGS AND RICH PEOPLE.



I WORK WITH DEAD BODIES. SO OBVIOUSLY I NEED TO HEAR A MASK.



It'S OF THE JACKAL-HEADED ANUBIS, OUR GOD OF THE AFTERLIFE AND MUMMIFICATION.









THEN WE REMOVE ALL THE ORGANS CEXCEPT FOR THE HERET I AND POP THEM IN JARS WITH THE HEADS OF DIFFERENT GODS.



THE LIVER



THE LUNGS



DUAMUTEF GETS THE STOMACH





FINALLY, WE WASH THE CORPSE WITH WINE. ADD AROMATIC OILS AND HERBS. THEN PACK IT WITH A SPECIAL SALT TO DRY IT OUT.



THEN, OF COURSE, WELL END BY COVERING IT IN LINEN STRIPS TO MAKE A MUMMY









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!



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























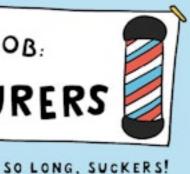
HANDFULS OF





# JUST THE JOB:

# CURIOUS CURERS



### POLE POSITION

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.





pogs 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 HOLE STORY

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!



# TOAD EATER



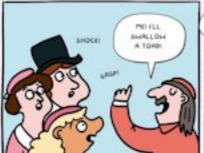
AT A FAIR IN ENGLAND. SOME 250 YEARS AGO.

HI! I'M A TOAD, AND I'M PREPARING TO PERFORM. WARTS AND ALL







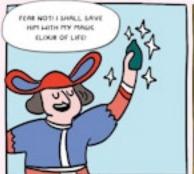










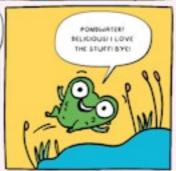


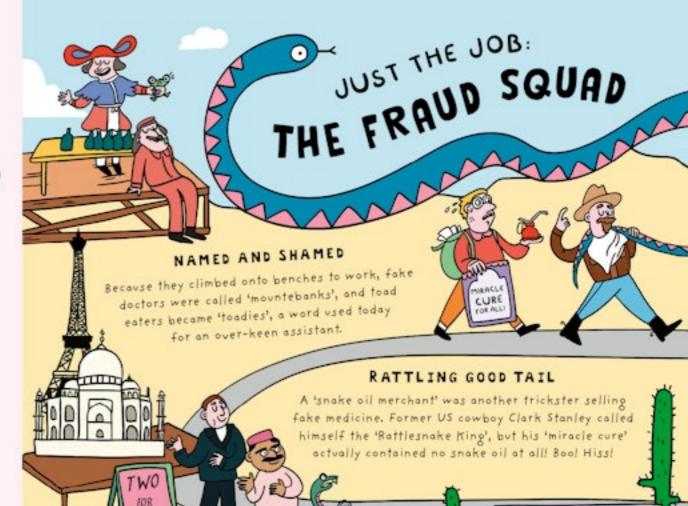






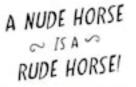






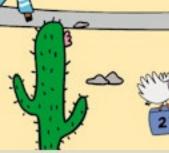
# THE CON IS ON (AND ON AND ON)

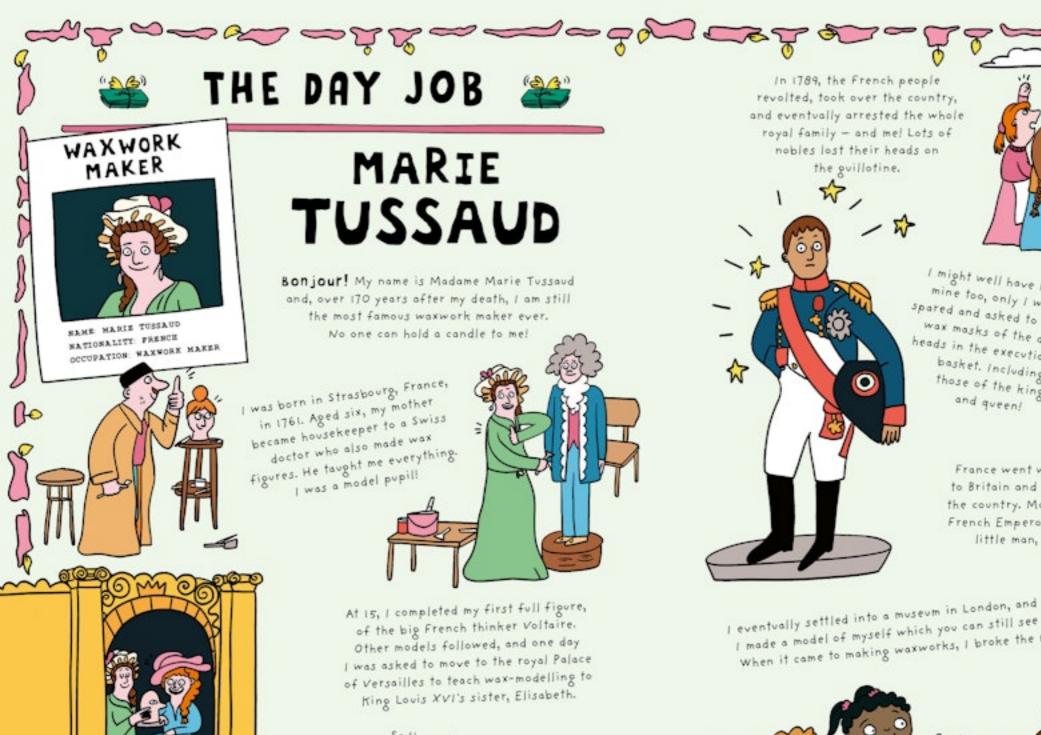
Several fraudsters have 'sold' famous buildings they didn't own. In the last century, Czech roque Victor Lustig 'sold' the Eiffel Tower twice, while an Indian master of disguise known as Natwarlal 'sold' the Taj Mahal thrice!



# THE CAT'S PYJAMAS?

US professional hoaxer Alan Abel made a career out of pranking the press. In the 1960s, he made world news with a pretend campaign to clothe naked animals. It had the slogan: "A nude horse is a rude horse"!





# THE DAY JOB



# 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!



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.

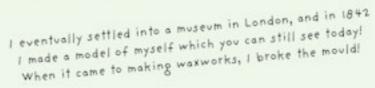
> Sadly, ordinary French citizens were starving while the rich lived in luxury. I mean, look at this place!

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!







# HUMANOID

























JUST THE JOB:

# REAL LIVE WIRES

# SPACE-TALK

In 2013, Kirobo was the
first robot to speak in
first 734 cm tall, he
space. Just 34 cm tall, he
chatted to Koichi Wakata, the
chatted to Koichi Wakata, the
first Japanese commander of
first Japanese station.
the International Space Station.

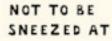


Developed in Japan, PARO is a cuddly robotic baby seal that interacts with patients in nursing homes. PARO's battery charger looks like a baby's dummy!



# OH, BROTHER!

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



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.

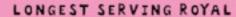








Royals have long been the envy of less lucky humans. Compared to most working people, they had it easy. Today, some people still dream of being king or queen, but others want to be pop stars, social media influencers or perhaps even authors and illustrators! This chapter is about jobs that just seem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





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!

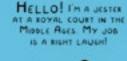
# NEXT BEST JOB EVER?



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!

33

# COURT JESTER



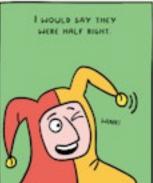






PREAMWHILE YOUR

HIGHNESS, I HAVE HEARD

























## BLOWN AWAY

Roland the Farter was jester to medieval English king Henry 11. His job was simple: every Christmas he entertained the court with 'one jump, one whistle and one fart'. In return, he was given a huge country house. (Now see page 861)

### SILVER LINING

Shen Jiangao, jester to 10th-century Chinese emperor Liezu, famously joked during a drought that rain would not fall because the emperor might tax it. Legend says the emperor cut taxes as a result, and it rained the very next day.



### NO LAUGHING MATTER

Mathurine the Fool was a female jester at the French court in the 16th century. She dressed as a warrior from the Amazon region of South America, and once helped foil an attempt to kill the French king Henry IV.





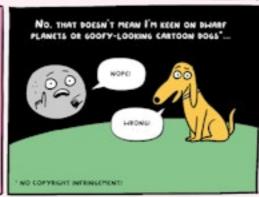


# **PLUTOCRAT**









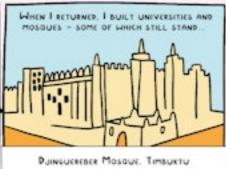




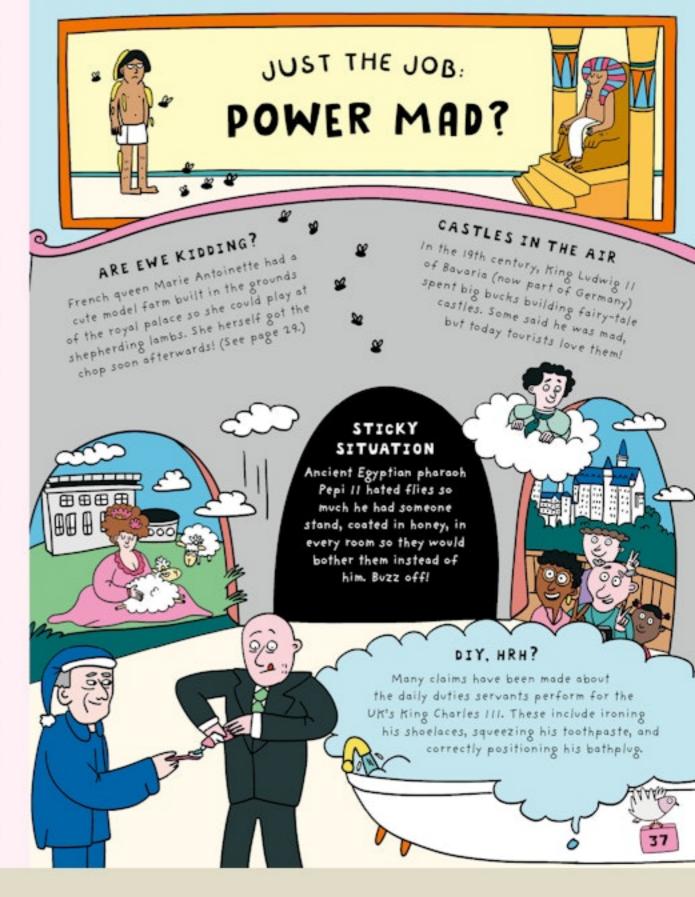














# HERMIT









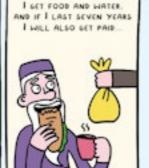
















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LIND MEC YOU

SPERKING TO



JUST THE JOB:

# LIMITED COMPANY

# GUIDING LIGHT

Sally Snowman (her real name!) is the USA's last lighthouse keeper. Her lighthouse on a tiny Massachusetts island dates back to the 1700s, and she dresses in clothes from the period!



The 'guardian' of Gabo Island, off the coast of Australia, is its only human resident. However, there are 30,000 little penguins to keep them company. Squawk!



Freight trains in India can be over 2 km in length! Both the engine driver at the front and the goard in the rear wagon are totally alone on long, slow journeys through the jungle.

Concordia scientific research station in Antarctica is one of the world's most remote workplaces. The crew of the International Space Station are actually closer to other human beings!





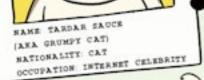
# THE DAY JOB



# INTERNET

# GRUMPY CAT

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.





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

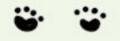


After making two movies, I also got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame . and people everywhere wanted to stroke me and take a selfie with me. It's a dog's life being a celebrity cat.

I DON'T THINK SO



It was world news when I died in 2019, but I'll live on the internet forever, 1 guess. Oh, and being a cat, 1 still have eight more lives left. I wonder if I'll look any happier in those. I hope not. Ciaow!





















In the far past, humans were super superstitious. They trusted priests, wise women, and other mystics to protect them from bad stuff, as well as predict the future. Today, we think we know better, but jobs that involve mysterious powers won't be going out of business anytime soon. Here are four facts to start us off.

### MOST FAMOUS FORECASTER



French astrologer Nostradamus wrote weird poems in the 1550s that some claim predicted future events such as the Great Fire of London and World War II.

### DOWSE THAT!



In the 1950s, British dowser Evelyn Penrose was asked to locate hidden oil wells by swinging a pendulum over maps of land thousands of miles away!

### HOW TOUCHING!



In medieval France and England, it was the job of a king or queen to touch people with diseases, as royals were said to have magical healing powers!

### RUN OF LUCK



In 1920s America, Lady Wonder was a famous mind-reading horse who used her nose to type out prophecies. She even forecast winning racehorses!

55



# ORACLE





















SO HHAT











HAVING A BALL

Magic & Ball is an American fortune-

telling toy. Inside the ball is a 20-sided dice that floats up to a little window where

its answer can be read. Spooky!



NATIONALITY: CANADIAN/AMERICAN OCCUPATION CEARLATAN

Amazing Randil 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!



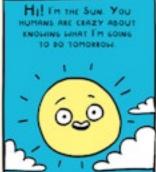






# PROGNOSTICATOR









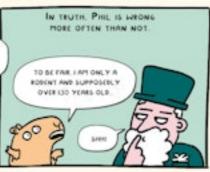




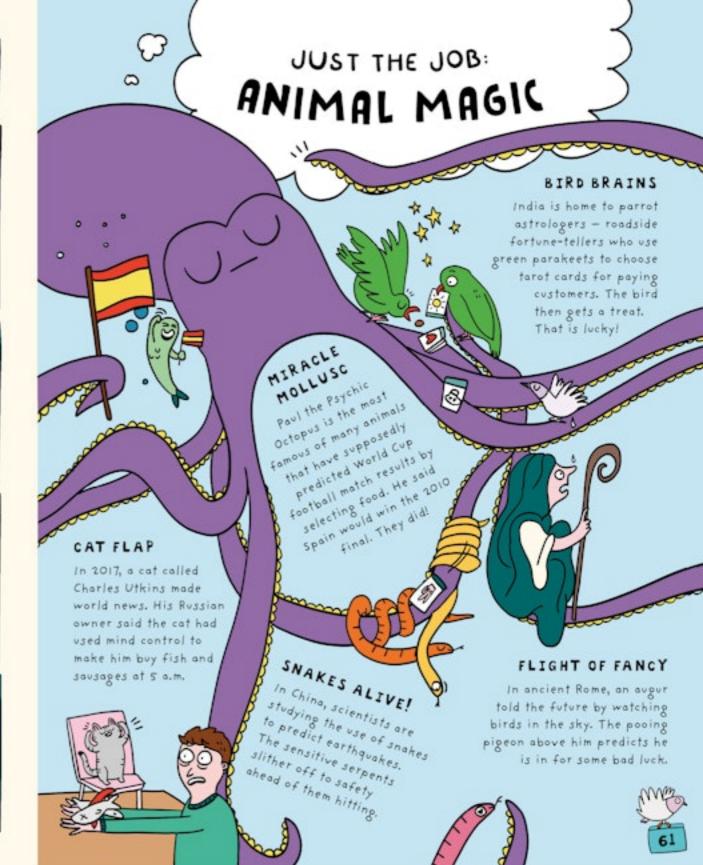




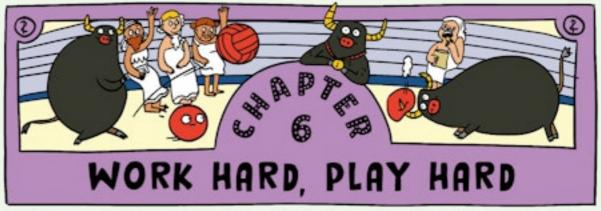




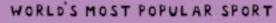








The human race: the name says it all, really. People are always trying to outdo each other. In the past, the person who could throw a spear the farthest would have been the most valuable hunter. Nowadays it's the superstars of track and field who get the gold medals. In this chapter, we look at sports,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





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

### OLDEST PRO-ATHLETE

Polish veteran Stanislav 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 tog of war, ballooning, rope-climbing, and ski-ballet. Videogamers hope to compete in the future!

### MOST SUCCESSFUL PARALYMPIAN



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

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# MARTIAL ARTIST #















ASIDE FROM THESE, PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING ELSE GOES.

















JUST THE JOB:

GREEK EARNERS

### STRIP NAKED

Women weren't allowed to compete - or even watch the Olympic Games. However, one woman called Pherenike dressed as a man to watch her son compete. She was found out when she got so excited her dispuise fell off!



BULLY FOR HIM Milo of Croton won the Olympic wrestling title six times in total from wrestling title six times in total from 540 BCE onwards. Legend has it he once carried a bull on his shoulders

around the stadium.

BLOW YOUR OWN!

The ancient Olympics included arts events. Herodorus of Megara won the trumpet event 10 times, thanks to the sheer loudness of his playing. PAAAARP!



Theagenes of Thasos was a hugely successful boxer, winning over 4,000 bouts. A statue of Theagenes fell on a jealous rival boxer, killing them. The statue was then tried for murder, found guilty, and thrown into the seal

# FOOT SOLDIER

Leonidas of Rhodes won 12 foot races from 164 BCE onwards, making him the greatest ancient Olympian. One of his events, the hoplitodromos, involved running in bronze armour with a heavy shield!





# AZTEC BALL GAME PLAYER

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





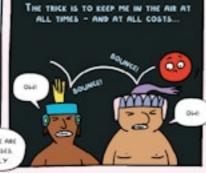




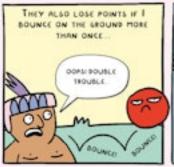


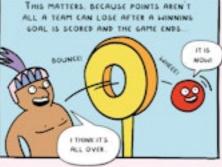














# JUST THE JOB:

## 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.



### 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



OCCUPATION FOOTBALLER

# LILY PARR

Hello! Want to know which football player scored almost 4,000 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!



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.



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!



















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

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



ME IN ACTION

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!





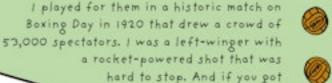












in the way, it hurt!

THE TEAM IN 1921













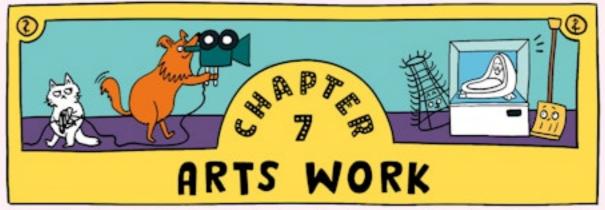












Humans have been singing, dancing, painting and creating other forms of art for thousands of years - even our relatives, the Neanderthals, decorated caves with depictions of animals. Today, the arts is a huge industry from poetry and drama to music, TV, films and video games. In this chapter, human creativity 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 'Beeple' Winkelmann.
You can't hang it on your wall, but it sold in 2021 for \$69 million!

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# ACTOR









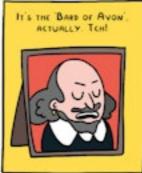


















# ACT ON IT!

### 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!



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









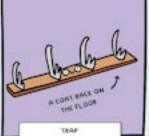
IN 1917, MARCEL WAS LIVING IN NEW YORK, USA, WHEN HE BOUGHT HE BRAND NEW FROM A PLUMBING SHOP AND ASDED A SIMPLE SIGNATURE AND THE YEAR.

R. MUTT 191





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

















RUBBISH ARTISTS

### TOP DRAWER

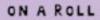
Born in Yokohama, Japan, sculptor Sayaka Ganz combines thrown-away household utensils such as spoons and spatulas to create amazing models of animals in action.



# 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.



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









BACK IN 1908, I WAS A BIG NOISE IN SILENT MOVIES. MAKING 60 FILMS FOR THE BIOGRAPH COMPANY - WHO KEPT MY NAME A SECRET!





















No, they don't hold the director's house keys. Grip crews organise all the equipment on a movie set, and the key grip organises all the grip crews. Get a grip!

### BEST BOY

Or best girl - is second in rank to the gaffer ("best boy/girl electric') and to the key grip ('best boy/ girl grip'). Despite the name, they will both be grown-ups!

# FOOD STYLIST

Makes fake food that stays looking good while scenes are shot over and over again. Mashed potato makes a good stand-in for ice cream!

# FOLEY ARTIST

ROLE (RAWL

GAFFER

Not the person in charge

of mistakes, but the head

electrician on a film

production. You could

say, they're a

bright spark!

SEAT FILLER

At televised movie

awards ceremonies, a

smartly dressed person

who sits in for a celebrity

who needs the loo so the

row still looks full-

What a star!

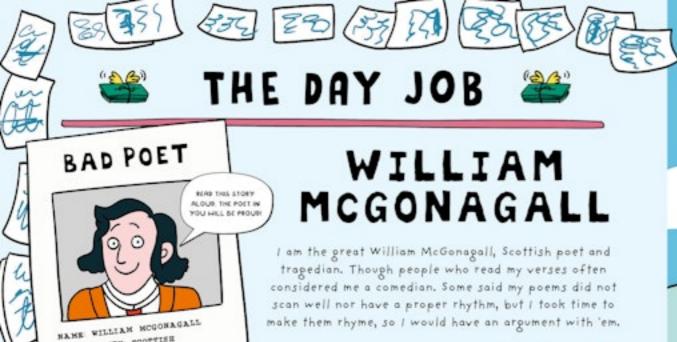
Adds sound effects to scenes, often faking them in clever ways, such as snapping a stick of celery for the sound of a broken bone! Ouch!



### WRANGLER

Looks after on-screen children or animals and keeps them happy between takes. Baby wranglers can make babies cry on cue, often by crying themselves!





make them rhyme, so I would have an argument with 'em.



NATIONALITY SCOTTISE OCCUPATION: BAD POST

> 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.





But although I composed my poems with all seriousness







# HANDIWORK

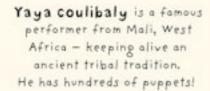
Puppetry is a form of theatre that was common in many ancient cultures across the world, and is still performed today.

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.





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 peoples with puppets and hidden from views



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





"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, were 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.

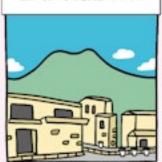
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# FULLER



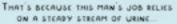
WELCOME TO THE ROMAN CITY OF POMPEIL IN 79 CE.



























# 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.



# 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 wooddyers 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











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















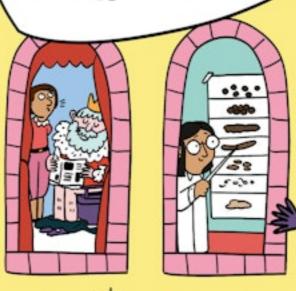




# WHAT A WASTE!

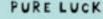
### ROYAL FLUSH

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 I (tiny dry
lumps) to Type 7 (runny
liquid). Types 3 and 4
- soft sausages - are
the ones to aim for!



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 of
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

# 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!



Back at the bakery, I practised while serving customers. My repertoire grew to include squeaky boots, various musical instruments, cannonfire 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 Pétomone', which means 'The Farting Maniac'.
Dressed smartly
(I think one should look smart to fart), I let rip with my many impressive impressions.

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!



Audiences loved it,

cheering and laughing

until tears rolled down

their cheeks (the ones

on their faces,

/ mean!).

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?

PAAAARP!







# 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!



### 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 200-200 eyes. A recording of his 'Lawyer Cat' chat went viral!





## HOLY MOLY!

In 2020, Italian priest Paolo Longo also fell foul of video filters. Livestreaming 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 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!





Nothing, thank you

# SLICE OF LIFE

'The icing on the cake' can mean something extraspecial. 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 you find 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 these jobs were dirty, dangerous and sometimes deadly. As this last chapter shows, there have been lots of horrible jobs for juniors in 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.



# 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.



### 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.



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.





# MONARCH

Tutankhamen became an Egyptian pharaoh at age nine. In 1632, Christina was made queen of Sweden, aged six. In 1384, 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 tought the moves that make them famous.



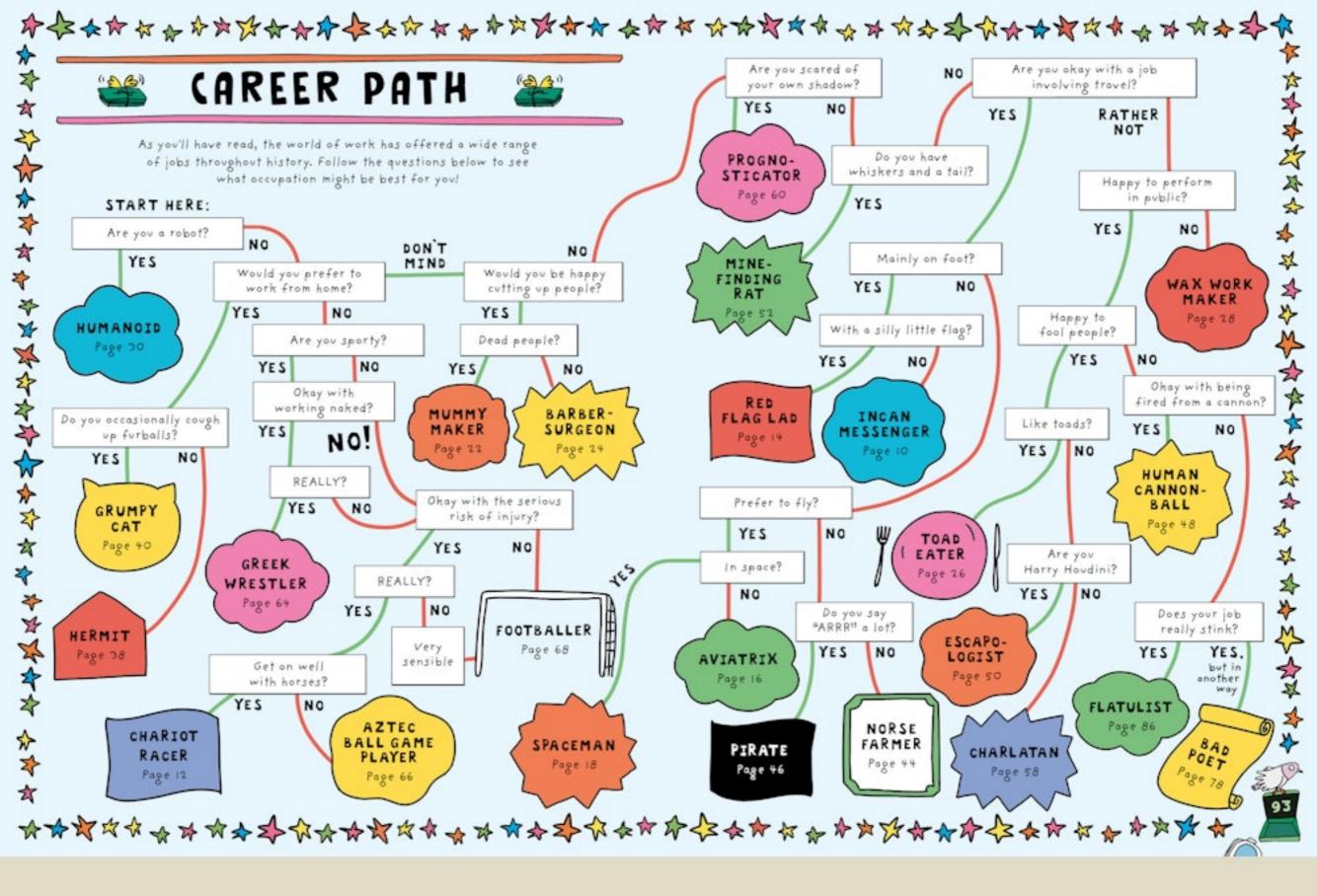
## FILM STAR

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 videosharing 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





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 YOURSELF HERE the moment it becomes available!) NAME AND AGE DREAM JOB HERE: DREAM JOB TITLE WHAT SKILLS CAN YOU BRING? WHY DO YOU WANT THIS JOB? HOW MUCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PAID? THE JOB IS YOURS! NOW. WHAT WILL YOU BUY WITH YOUR WAGES?