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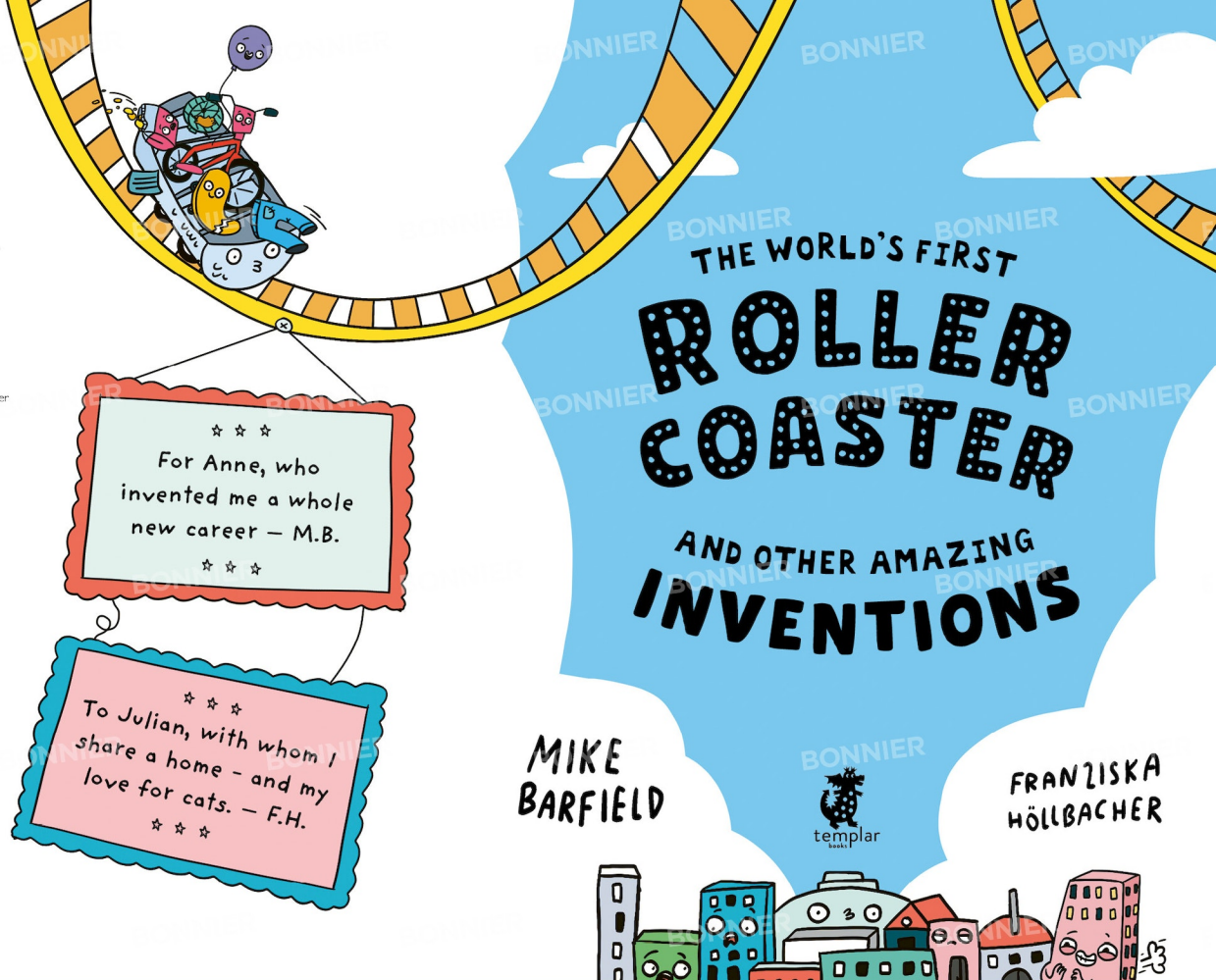
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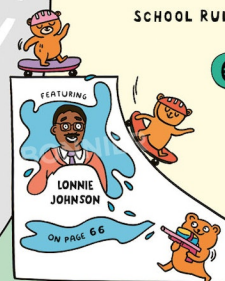
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INTRODUCTION

STOP! Before we go any further, a question:

Are you taller than this BOOK?

The world's First Rollercoaster and other Amazing Inventions!

Yes? Then, congratulations, as that means you can climb aboard the fast-paced thrill ride that is...

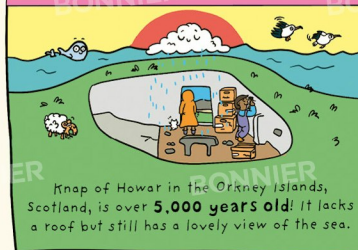
This book is about to take you on a twisting, turning journey through some of the most fun and famous inventions of our world. From skateboards to skyscrapers, teddy bears to toilets, and from bubble wrap to burgers and beyond, they are all squeezed into these fact-packed pages.

But, be warned! This book has more light bulb moments than a funfair after sundown. So, find a seat, strap yourself in and get ready to scream – with delight! The reading ride-of-your-life is about to begin!



The world is bursting with buildings, and no wonder with a population of about eight billion people! In this chapter, we reveal a selection of striking structures that are record-makers and record-breakers, as well as some that are just plain fun! First, let's build the excitement with four fantastic facts:

WORLD'S OLDEST HOME



Knap of Howar in the Orkney Islands, Scotland, is over **5,000 years old!** It lacks a roof but still has a lovely view of the sea.

WORLD'S HIGHEST SANDCASTLE

21m

Built in a sculpture park in Denmark in 2021, this pile of sand stood at just over 21 metres tall, helped by a small amount of **glue** and **clay** mixed in.

CHEATING!

BIGGEST BIRD-SHAPED BUILDING



Ashgabat International Airport in Turkmenistan, Asia, is built in the form of a giant **white falcon** swooping low.

FIRST BUILD ON MINECRAFT

Just 49 minutes after the computer game Minecraft launched in 2009, a player called 'Muku' built a **nine-block bridge**. Now over 170 million people play it each month!



ROLLERCOASTER

HII! I'M GRAVITY. THE INVISIBLE FORCE THAT MAKES THINGS FALL.

AHHH!

ALMOST THERE!

YOU OKAY?

I'M WHY ROLLERCOASTER CARS NEED PULLING UP THE TRACKS...

NO GOING DOWNHILL FAST KEE!

AND WHAT HELPS THEM RACE AROUND THE TRACK AND BACK DOWN TO THE GROUND!

THE IDEA FOR ROLLERCOASTERS CAME FROM GIANT ICE SLIDES BUILT FOR WINTER FUN IN RUSSIA, 400 YEARS AGO... PEOPLE RODE ON BLOCKS OF ICE!

IT'S A SLIPPERY SLOPE!

TODAY MANY COUNTRIES STILL CALL ROLLERCOASTERS 'RUSSIAN MOUNTAINS'

THE FIRST MODERN STYLE ROLLERCOASTER APPEARED IN PARIS, FRANCE, IN 1817, AND HAD WHEELED CARS ON A HEART-SHAPED TRACK...

I'D TRY!

ME TOO!

PEOPLE BEGAN BUILDING BIGGER AND BETTER WOODEN RIDES IN SEARCH OF THRILLS.

IS THIS THING SAFE?

TOUCH WOOF!

LEAPS THE BIPS, PENNSYLVANIA, USA BUILT 1902, AND STILL WORKING!

THE WORLD'S FIRST ROLLERCOASTER WITH STEEL TUBES FOR TRACKS OPENED IN DISNEYLAND, USA, IN 1959...

IT'S A FAKE MOUNTAIN!

BUT REAL FUN!

THE MATTHEW HORN DOBBLED

TWO MINUTES LATER

AGAIN! AGAIN! AGAIN!

WELL THAT WAS SOON OVER

STOP!

THERE ARE WELL OVER 2,000 ROLLERCOASTERS IN THE WORLD TODAY, AND TUBULAR STEEL TRACKS ALLOW DESIGNERS TO INCLUDE TIGHT BENDS THAT FLIP RIDERS UPSIDE DOWN. BUT NOT FOR LONG!



HIGHLY INVENTIVE

DIÉBÉDO FRANCIS KÉRÉ

Hello! My name is Diébédo Francis Kéré. In 2022, I became the first African to win the Pritzker Architecture Prize – the world's top award for people who design buildings.

But it has been a long journey – literally!

I grew up in a tiny village called Gando in Burkina Faso, West Africa. There was no school, but we were like one big family. We played together in the village, laughed and built houses side by side. When I was seven, I went to live with my uncle in the city of Tenkodogo to learn to read and write. **My first journey!**

My school was very hot, with little light or air, and one hundred children all crowded together. This was when I decided that one day I wanted to build better schools for everyone – beginning back home in Gando!

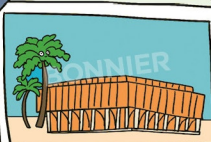
After leaving school, I became a carpenter, working with wood. Skills like these can take you far. Mine took me to Berlin, Germany, where I eventually went to college to study architecture.

Could I make my dream come true?

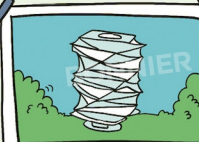
Maybe! I headed home to Gando to build an eco-friendly school with the help of the community. We made mud bricks rather than use expensive cement and planted mango trees for shade – as well as their tasty fruit!

It was finished in 2001 with a raised roof to beat the heat. I qualified as an architect soon afterwards and went back to build a high school, as well as homes for teachers too!

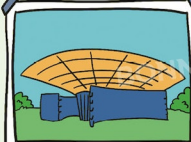
But, best of all, my cool school inspired others like it to be built. Now I have designed buildings all over the world that work with nature, not against it.



BENIN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
PORTO-NOVO, BENIN



TUM TOWER, UNIVERSITY OF
MUNICH, GERMANY



SERPENTINE PAVILION.
LONDON, UK

It's been a great journey – and it isn't over yet!

SUPERMARKET

Hi! I'm a can sat on a supermarket shelf, and I'm full of beans...



...JUST LIKE SHOPKEEPER CLARENCE SAUNDERS WAS BACK IN 1916.



IT WAS THE YEAR HE INVENTED THE SELF-SERVICE SUPERMARKET, OPENING THE FIRST ONE IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, USA.



HE GAVE IT AN UNUSUAL NAME THOUGH.



BEFORE THIS, SHOPPERS HAD TO WAIT WHILE STAFF AT SHOPS FOUND THEIR ITEMS FOR THEM.



THEY ALSO BOUGHT FOOD FROM OPEN CONTAINERS.



CLARENCE CANNED ALL THAT. INSTEAD, SHOPPERS GRABBED PRE-PACKED GOODS FOR THEMSELVES ALONG A ONE-WAY ROUTE TO THE TILLS...



SHOPPERS ALSO BOUGHT THINGS ON IMPULSE, POPPING THEM INTO BIG WICKER BASKETS...



CLEVER CLARENCE ALSO WENT ON TO INVENT PRICE TAGS FOR SHELVES AND TILL RECEIPTS FOR SHOPPERS...



BUT ONE MYSTERY STILL REMAINS. WHY CALL HIS STORES 'PIGGY WIGGLY'?



WHATEVER NEXT? CHECK IT OUT

50% SALE

60%

10%

30%

40%

SOUTHDALE CENTER

THE GREAT INDOORS

The world's first shopping mall was the Southdale Center in Edina, Minnesota, USA. Opened in 1956, architect Victor Gruen wanted to create a European-style high street indoors, free from cars.

NAME GAME

The word 'mall' comes from 'Pall Mall', a smart London street. However, 400 years ago it was a large field where rich people played a popular ball game. Buckingham Palace now stands nearby.

IRAN MALL

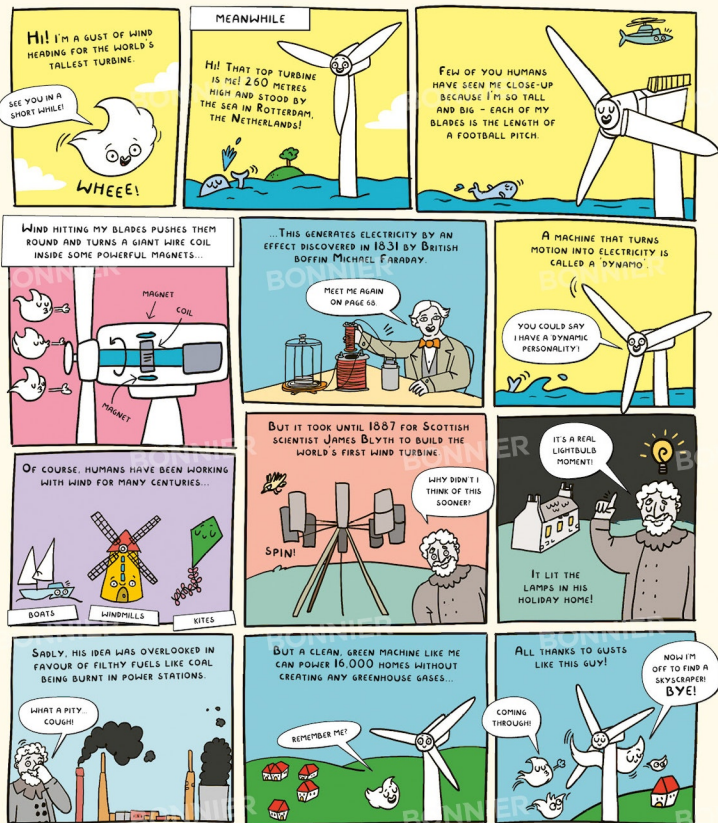
MIGHTY MALL

The world's most massive mall is Iran Mall in the Iranian capital of Tehran. It has shops on seven floors covering an area greater than 270 football pitches!

HOT STUFF!

Volcano Buono Mall near Naples, Italy, is inside a giant grass-covered mound shaped like a shallow volcano. Its name means 'Good volcano', unlike nearby Mount Vesuvius, a real volcano that once destroyed the Roman city of Pompeii and all its shops and stalls.

WIND TURBINE



WHATEVER NEXT? STAR TURNS



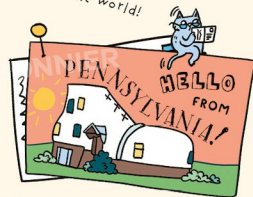


NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

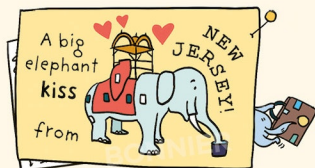
Fancy spending a night inside an elephant, or turning your home into a toilet? Here are some of the oddest buildings in the world!



The **Upside-down House** in Szymbark, Poland, is a top tourist attraction. You enter through a window in the roof!



The **Haines Shoe House** in Pennsylvania, USA, was built by a shoe salesman to advertise footwear. Wipe your feet before entering!



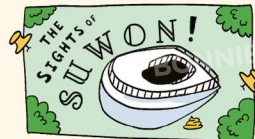
'**Lucy**' is a giant concrete elephant in New Jersey, USA, that doubles as a hotel. Don't forget to take a trunk!



A house in Oxford, England, has a giant fibreglass **shark** wedged in its roof!



This home in Miziara, Lebanon, is a full-sized replica of an **Airbus A380**, the world's largest passenger plane. Do you think the idea will take off?



The '**Toilet House**' in Suwon, South Korea, is now a museum all about toilets and has a giant, golden sculpture of a poo outside. Make sure you wash your hands!



Humans have been on the move for the past 200,000 years: first on foot, then by water, horses, wheels and wings. In this chapter, we have the stories behind some of the cleanest, greenest ways to travel, and much more. So, get a move on! Let's start with some 'safety first' facts!

WORLD'S FIRST SPEED LIMIT

Introduced in Britain in 1865, motor car drivers had to keep below **1.6 km/h** in towns and have someone walk slowly in front with a red flag!



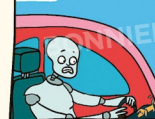
FIRST CHILD SAFETY SEAT

The modern-style car **safety seat** was invented in 1962 by Jean 'Jerry' Ames, a working British mum who wanted to keep her young son safe.



MOST CRASHED DRIVER

The crash test dummy known as '**Hybrid III**' was introduced in 1976.



Used by car makers across the world, if '**III**' could stand up he would be **1.75 metres** tall.

ODDEST SAFETY MEASURE

It may sound scary, but most modern cars contain **high explosives**!



They are detonated by collisions to produce the nitrogen gas that inflates airbags.

CRASH!

