

## 2. MASTER BUILDERS

Humans live in all types of homes:

- igloos
- tents
- log cabins
- brick houses

Animals live in all types of homes, too. Some are cleverly built and some are rather odd.

### Moving in

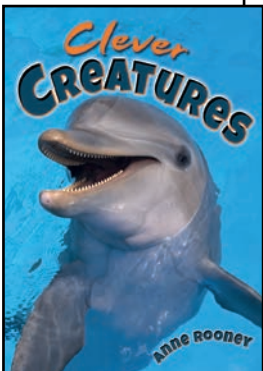
Most animals have to make their own homes, but some are lazier – or smarter!

The hermit crab lives in a seashell left behind by another animal. The front of the crab is like any other crab – it has a hard shell and strong pincers. But the back end is soft and unprotected.



There is a hermit crab in Legoland, England, that lives in a shell made of Lego.

As the crab grows, it has to find a bigger shell. When it finds one, it moves quickly out of its old shell and into the new one.



## 4. Using fire

Although fire can be dangerous, its power and light can be used for many things.

In the past, fire beacons were built in high places as warning systems for enemy attacks. When the first lit beacon was seen, the next beacon was lit and so on.

This was how people were warned about the Spanish Armada in 1588.



In the 19th century, the steam train was invented using a steam engine. The steam that powers the pistons of the engine is created by burning coal.

### Steam train engine

A hot coal fire

Heat warms up the water to make steam.

Steam moves the piston.

The piston powers the wheels.



The *Titanic* was a steam-powered ship. But its steam engines were not powerful enough for it to avoid crashing into an iceberg.

- Day and night – Apollo is the god of light. He is said to ride his chariot across the sky every day, bringing with him sunrise and sunset.



In one myth, Arachne is a very skilled weaver. She boasts she is better than the goddess Athena so Athena turns her into a spider. That's why we call spiders 'arachnids'.

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## 2. GODS AND GODDESSES

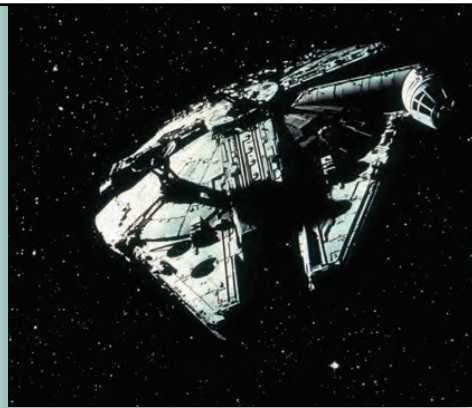
The most famous gods and goddesses from Greek mythology are the 12 gods of Olympus. They are all descendants of Gaia and rule from the highest mountain in Greece, known as Mount Olympus.



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Han Solo and Chewbacca fly around space in a ship called the *Millennium Falcon*. They claim it is one of the fastest ships in the galaxy, although it often breaks down.



The alien ships that appear in the film *Independence Day* are the size of cities.

In one famous scene we can see one of the ships over the White House in Washington DC. It later goes on to destroy it.



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The Tardis is used by Doctor Who to travel through space and time. It looks like an old police telephone box.

Tardis stands for:

Time And Relative Dimension(s) In Space.



### Brooklyn Bridge for sale

George Parker was a con man. In the 1880s, he 'sold' the Brooklyn Bridge not once, not twice, but over and over again.

His con was simple:

**SOLD**

He picked out 'marks' who had not been living in America very long and who did not speak English very well.

He told them he owned Brooklyn Bridge. He said he needed to make some money quickly so he was selling it for a very low price.

Then he showed them lots of drawings and important-looking papers about the bridge.

He told them that they could make lots of money by setting up tollbooths and charging people to cross the bridge.

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A surprising number of people fell for this scam.

The New York police made lots of people take down tollbooths they had set up.



**WOW!**  
facts

George Parker spent the last eight years of his life in prison, where he entertained other prisoners with tales of his con tricks.

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Penguins are suited to water in many ways:

Notches in the beak to help catch and hold slippery fish

No ears we can see but penguins have very good hearing

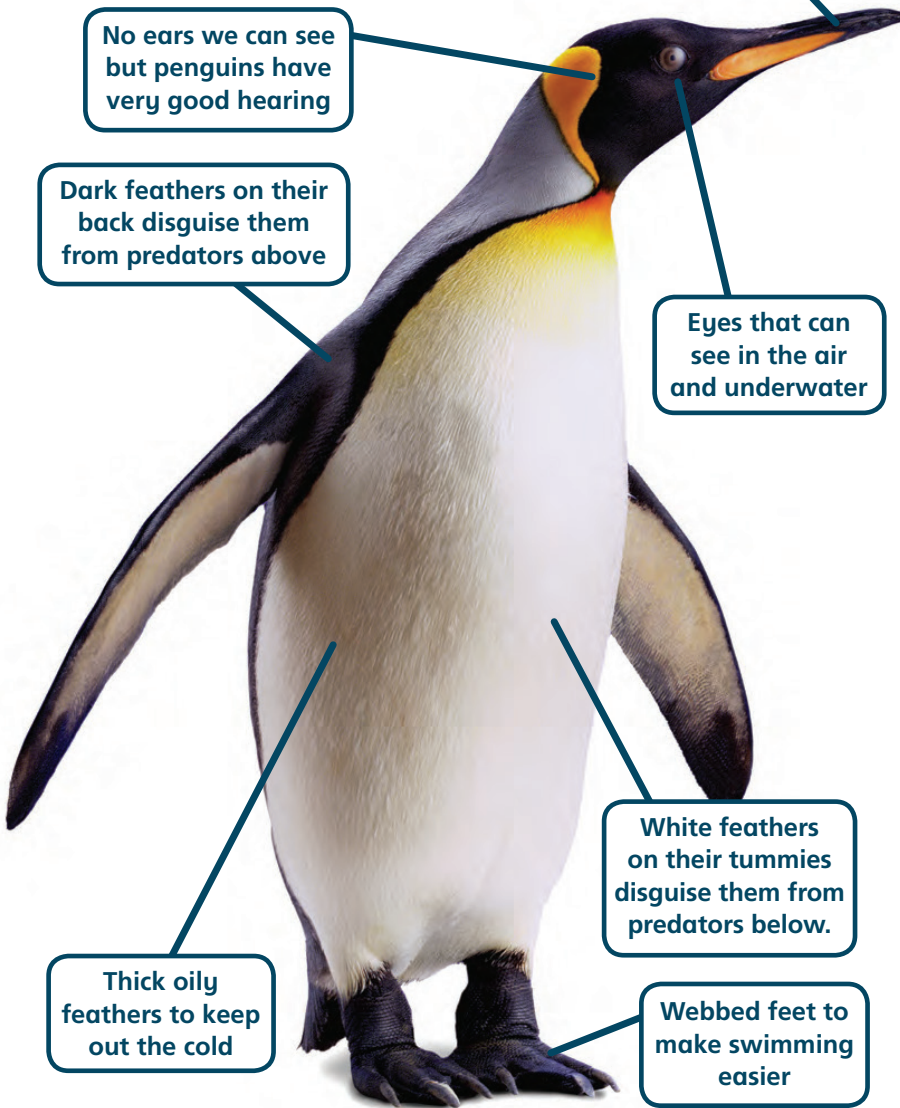
Dark feathers on their back disguise them from predators above

Eyes that can see in the air and underwater

White feathers on their tummies disguise them from predators below.

Thick oily feathers to keep out the cold

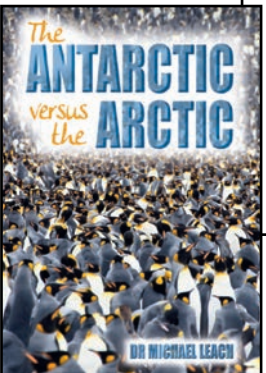
Webbed feet to make swimming easier



The first Antarctic explorers thought that penguins were fish that grew feathers. No-one believed that birds could survive in such terrible weather.

There are 20 million penguins in the Antarctic. Most live on the islands around the coast.

The emperor is the biggest species of penguin.



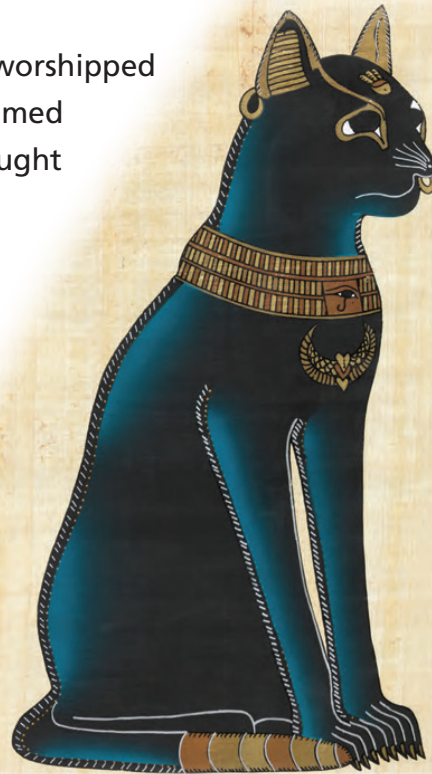
## China

In Ancient China, Emperor Ling of Han loved his pet dogs so much he made them court officials. They were fed the finest foods by an army of servants.

## Egypt

Cats were adored in Ancient Egypt. Thousands of paintings and statues of them have survived.

The Egyptians even worshipped a cat-headed god named Bastet who they thought could guard them against evil spirits.



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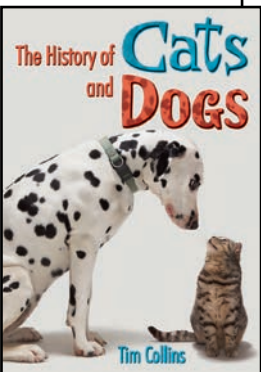
Cats were so important to Egyptians that they would risk their lives to save their pets if the house caught fire. And when a cat died, the owner would shave off their eyebrows as a sign of mourning.

Ancient Egyptians sometimes turned their cats into mummies. After the cat died, its body was preserved with spices and placed in a decorated coffin.

The Egyptians believed that the cat would be born again in the afterlife and so would need its body. Mummified cats have been found in many Egyptian burial sites.



Cats have been popular on ships since ancient times. They stop rats getting into food supplies, which can make the crew and passengers ill.



## The top three most dangerous jobs

### Number three - bush pilot

Being a bush pilot is the third most dangerous job in the world!

Bush pilots fly small aircraft into some of the most remote places on Earth, such as the icy lands of Alaska or the dense bush of Africa.

They have to deal with:

- severe weather
- weather that changes very quickly
- landing on bumpy ground

If they make one tiny mistake it can lead to disaster!



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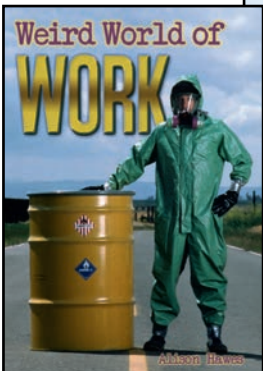
### Number two - deep sea fisherman

Deep sea fishermen do the second most dangerous job in the world. They spend days or weeks at sea, in some of the most hostile environments on earth.

To catch the fish we eat, they often have to deal with:

- freezing temperatures
- rough weather
- sudden storms
- icy decks
- heavy machinery

Every year, many deep sea fishermen are badly injured or die at work.



### 3. NO HIDING PLACE

#### Disappearing forests

Our planet is covered in huge forests that are home to thousands of species of mammals, birds and insects.

The animals that live in forests need the trees for food and shelter. If the forests disappear so do the animals, especially primates such as monkeys and apes.



Orangutans are the largest mammals that live in trees. In the past 20 years, 80% of the rainforest where they live has been destroyed by illegal logging. That is when trees are cut down to make timber for building homes, furniture and other goods.

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Another big threat to orangutans and other wildlife is the destruction of the rainforest to plant trees for palm oil. Palm oil is used to increase the shelf life of goods, so they can be on sale longer in shops and supermarkets.

**Name:** Orangutan

**Found:** Sumatra

**Habitat:** Rainforest

**How many left:** 7300

**Reason endangered:** Forest clearance,  
hunting for meat and pet trade



Every hour, an area of rainforest the size of 300 football pitches is destroyed for palm oil trees.



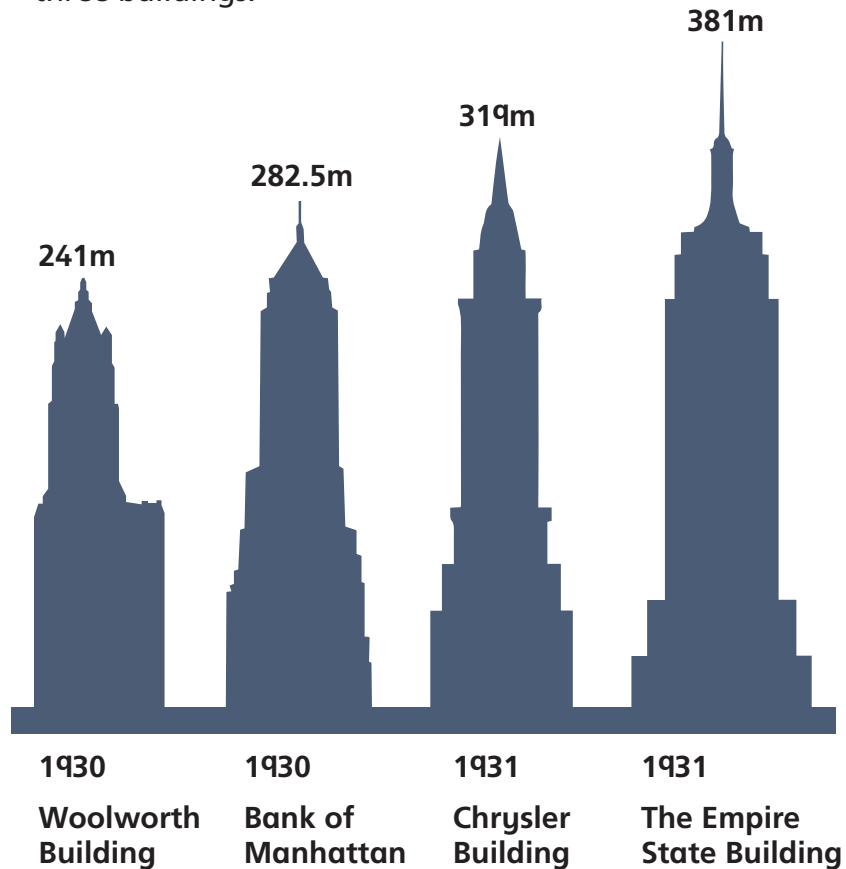
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### Record breakers

In 1930, the world's tallest building was the Woolworth Building in New York. It was 241 metres high.

Then, between 1930 and 1931 it was overtaken by three buildings:



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Today, the world's tallest building is the **Burj Khalifa** in Dubai.

It is 828 metres high. To picture something that tall, think of more than 100 normal houses on top of one another!

It took five years to build.



You can watch the sun set from the bottom of the Burj Khalifa. Then if you speed up the lift to floor 162 you can watch the sun set again!

