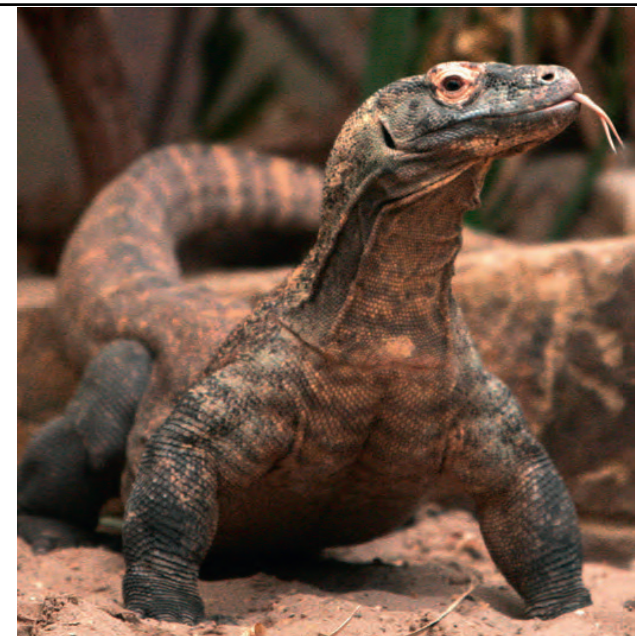


1. Awesome animals of the rainforest

Komodo dragons are the heaviest lizards on the planet! They have sharp, claws and sharp jagged teeth to kill their prey. They also have poisonous spit! So even if an animal escapes from the dragon's jaws, it will die within 24 hours from blood poisoning.

Awesome fact

Komodo dragons can be as long as a car!

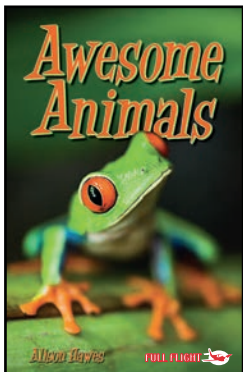


Baby Komodo dragons spend their first year of life up in the forest trees.

They don't come down to the forest floor until they are at least a metre long. This is because adult Komodo dragons will eat their own young!

Awesome fact

Komodo dragons have been known to attack or even kill people.



1. IN THE ZONE

Basketball is the top indoor sport in the world.

Players must focus every second they are on court. You're 'in the zone', totally at one with the game, or you're nowhere.

Picture a top basketball match. The indoor stadium is packed with noisy fans. On the brightly lit court, two teams play for glory.

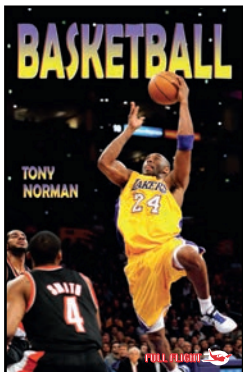
There are ten players on court (five from each team). They pass the ball with skill and pace. Everyone is thinking fast and working for their team. There are seconds to play and the scores are even. The coaches prowl the side of the court like caged animals. Then one leaps into the air.

4

A power play from the team has ended with a shot on target. The ball spins round the hoop and falls into the basket. It's a last second winner. The crowd go wild.

This is the exciting world of basketball.

WELCOME TO LIFE IN THE ZONE



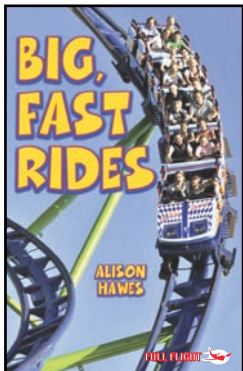
I. ROLLERCOASTERS

Lots of big parks and fairgrounds have rollercoasters.

These are giant rides that have trains or cars that you sit in to ride the tracks.

Lots of people love riding rollercoasters because they are big, fast and fun – and a little bit scary!

Bullet Coaster in Happy Valley Park, China



1. WHAT IS A STUNT?

There are two main types of stunt:

- stunts in films (pages 5-19)
- stunts performed by magicians, daredevils and escape artists (pages 20-29)



2. SO YOU WANT TO BE IN THE MOVIES?

Have you ever been watching a film, seen someone jumping out of a window or crashing a helicopter, and thought I'd like to do that? The job of a stunt artist is to perform dangerous acts to add excitement to a film. For anyone wanting to become a stunt artist, the training is long and very hard.

For a start you have to be very fit, willing to learn and not be scared of getting hurt.

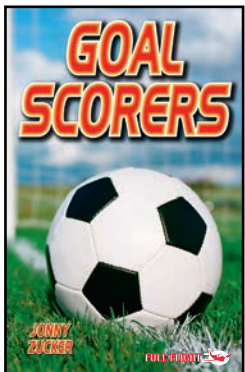


I. THE GOAL SCORER'S KIT

Whether you're a playground star or Lionel Messi, a goal scorer needs to wear standard football kit – a shirt, shorts, football socks and shin pads.

To score great goals, you must be wearing the right footwear. Comfort is the key. For playing on concrete or astro-turf, a lightweight trainer that feels good is right. For playing on grass, football boots are a must.

Many teams now ban metal studs because of the injuries they can cause. So it's worth checking out what your school or club says before you buy. Some boots have moulded studs. Others have studs that can be taken off, cleaned and put back.



I. THE GOALKEEPER'S KIT



4

To be a goalkeeper you need some basic football kit.

Boots for grass and trainers for a hard surface are needed. Shin pads are very important as they can stop a goalkeeper getting badly hurt.

Tracksuit bottoms are useful because they protect your legs better than shorts. This is very true in a playground!

A goalkeeper's top with elbow pads can make your life as a goalkeeper a little bit safer. Goalkeeping gloves are important because they protect your hands and hold the ball well.

5



1. THE FIRST MONEY

When we think of money we think of coins, cards and notes.

But in the past there were none of these. So people had to use other things instead.



4

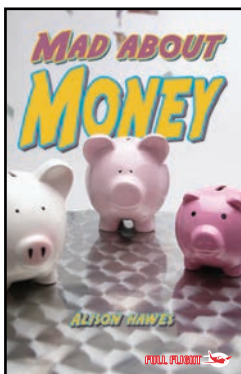
All these items have been used as money in the past. They were all things that were valuable to people at the time.



MONEY BOX FACT
Long ago in Sumatra,
people used skulls
as money!



5



1. RED HOT RACERS

The speedway stadium is packed.
The fans look tense as they wait to see
their heroes.

Suddenly, four top riders burst out onto
the track and the crowd goes wild.

The cheers almost drown out the roar
of the motorbikes as they cruise to the
starting line.

The speedway stars wear leather racing
suits and coloured helmets. They look
cool, like comic book heroes.

They line their bikes up at the starting
gate and rev their engines to full power.
It's time to focus hard on the race ahead.



Then the starting gate whips up into
the air. The bikes rush forward and
speed into the first corner. They are
just centimetres apart, as they slide
round the bend.

The racers have just one thing on their
minds and that's winning.

Welcome to UK speedway, the home of
the red hot racers!



1. The Fastest People On Earth

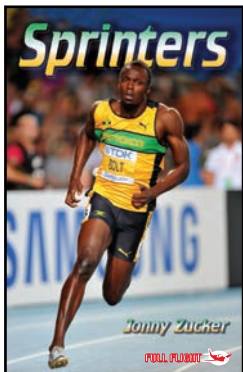
- Do you think you can run fast?
- Could you be a record breaker?



People have tried time and time again to prove they are the fastest runners on Earth. In fact, the first recorded Olympic Games took place nearly 3,000 years ago. Today, sprint races are seen by many as the most exciting of all athletics events.

The word 'sprint', means 'a short race at full speed'. The term 'sprint races' means the 100m, 200m and 400m.

Some runners discover that only one of the sprint distances is right for them. Others find they can compete in two sprint races, such as the 200m and 400m. If you want to make it as a sprinter, it's never too early to begin, but to start you'll need the right gear.



1. LIAR!

We all tell lies sometimes. Lots of us tell little lies – or fibs. But some people, like the ones in this book, tell very big lies!

In 2009, Richard and Mayumi Heene phoned the police in a panic. They couldn't find their six-year-old son! They thought he may have climbed into a helium balloon that they had launched from their garden.

The police later found out that the boy was hiding in the family's attic the whole time.



A man named Ray Santilli claimed he had footage of an alien autopsy.

A lot of people were fooled by the footage. He later confessed that the video was a fake and that the alien was in fact a sculpture.

