

The world has many great
Find out about the tallest
longest bridges and stron

Ladybird Readers is a series of traditional tales, modern stories, and nonfiction, written for young learners of English as a foreign language. The series follows the **CEFR framework** and includes language activities that help develop key skills and can provide preparation for the **Cambridge English: Young Learners (YLE)** exams.

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**Starter
A and B**

Pre-A1
50—100 headwords

Level 1

Pre-A1
YLE starters
100—200 headwords

Level 2

A1
YLE movers
200—300 headwords

Level 3

A1 +
YLE movers
300—600 headwords

Level 4

A2
YLE flyers
600—900 headwords

Included

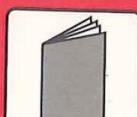


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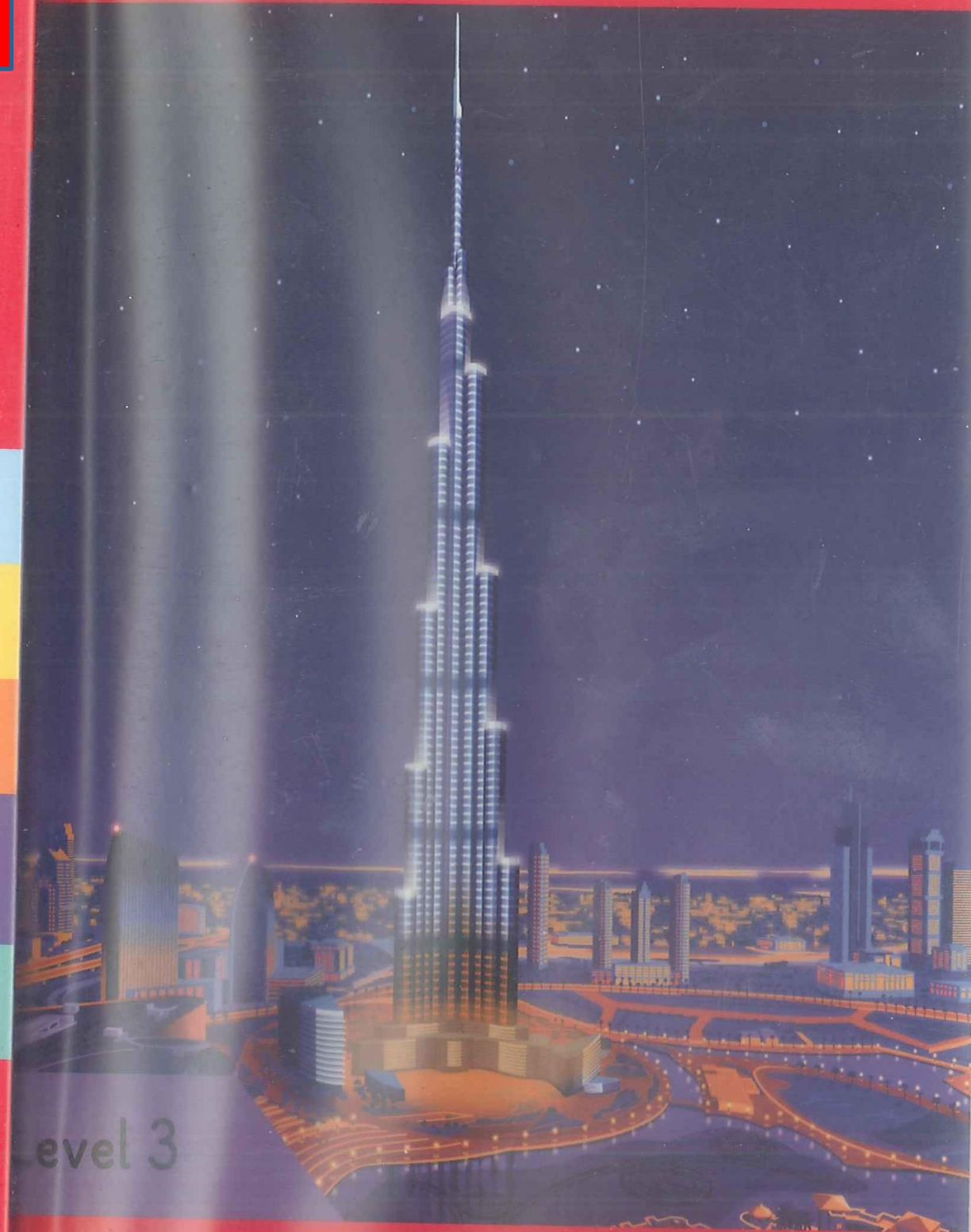
Lexile measure 580L

Ladybird



Readers

6.



Level 3

Great Buildings

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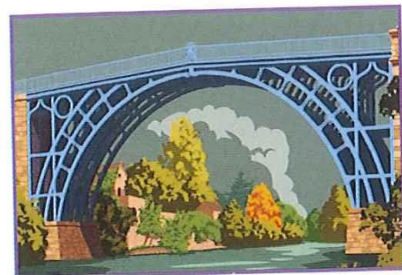
Picture words



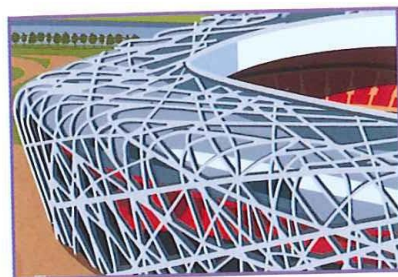
concrete



concrete dam



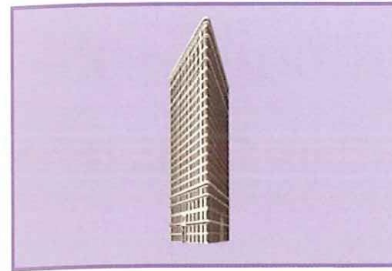
metal bridge



metal cage



rope bridge



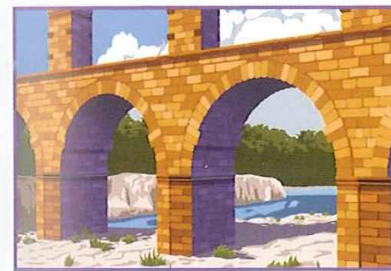
skyscraper



statue



stone walls



supports



suspension bridge

Great buildings

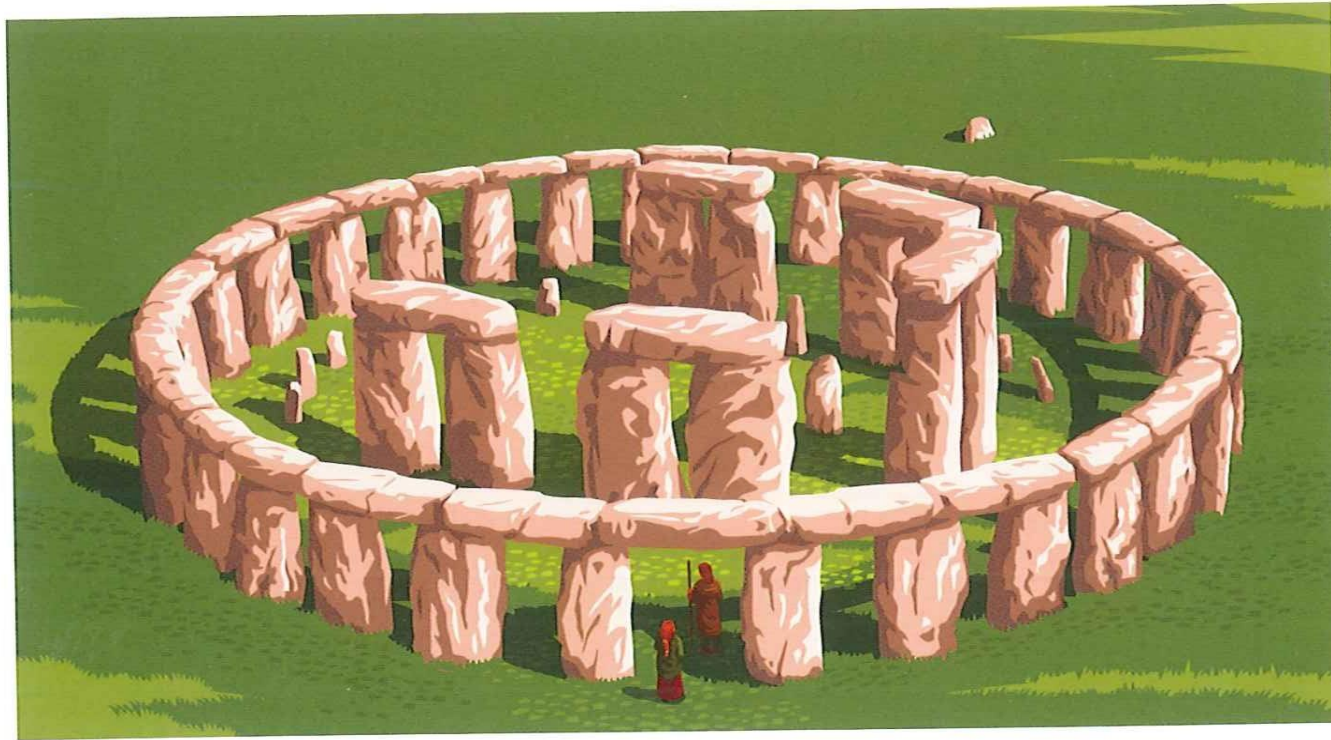
The world has many great buildings. People like making buildings that are big and beautiful.

There are many great buildings in the world.

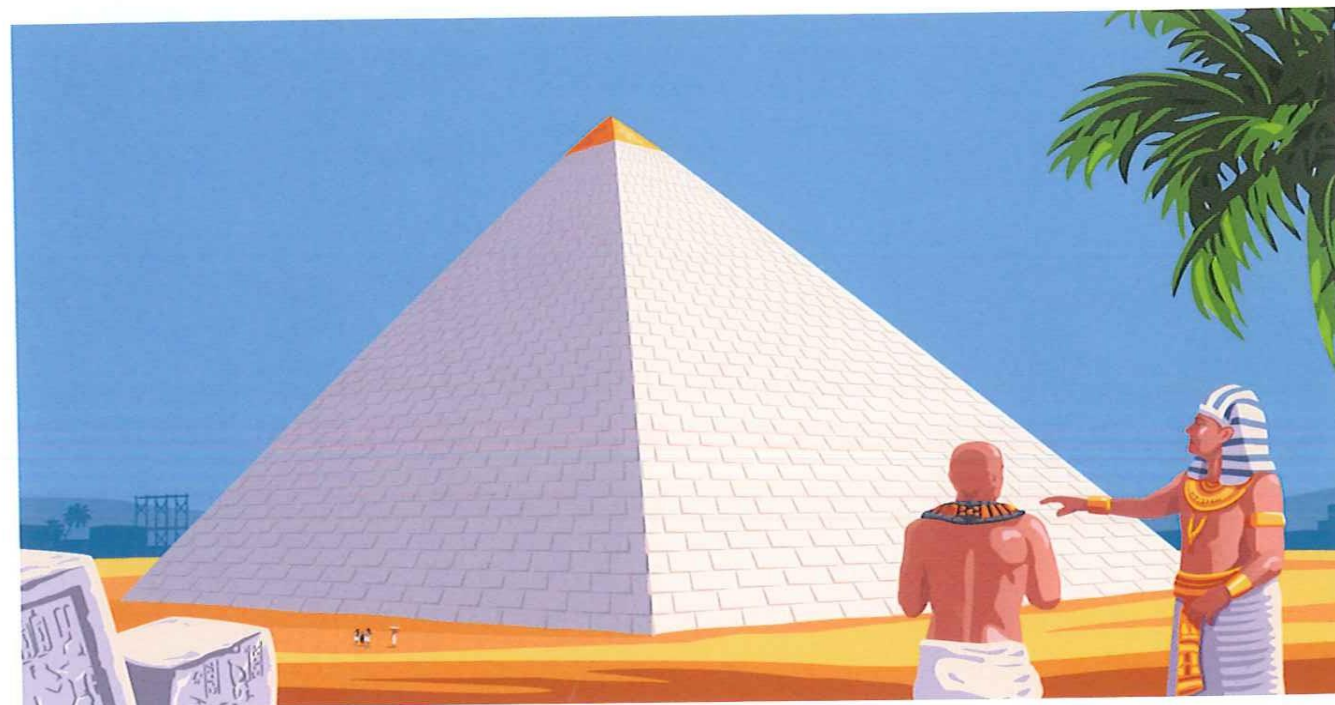


Old buildings

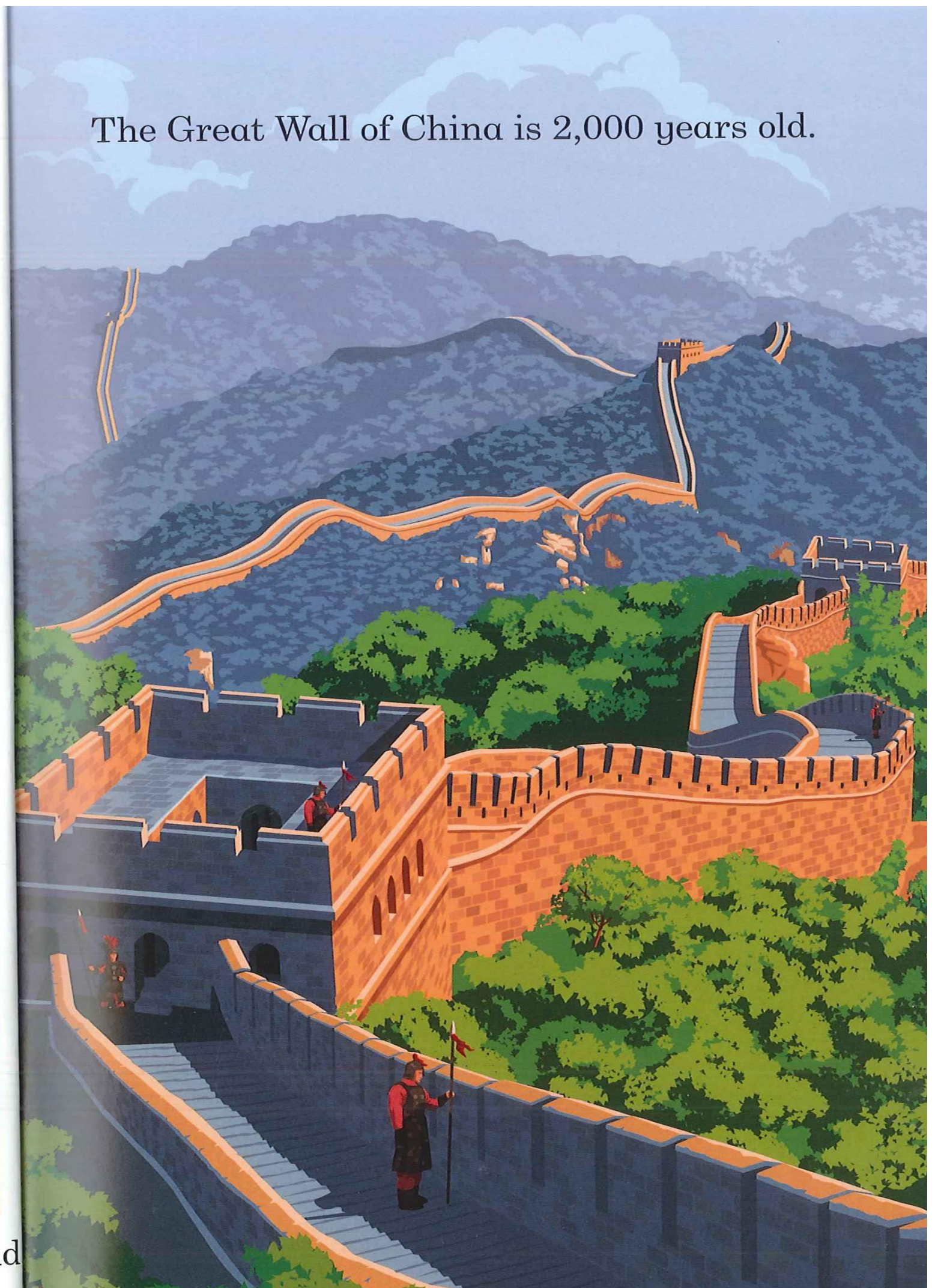
Some great buildings are very old.



Stonehenge in England is 4,500 years old.



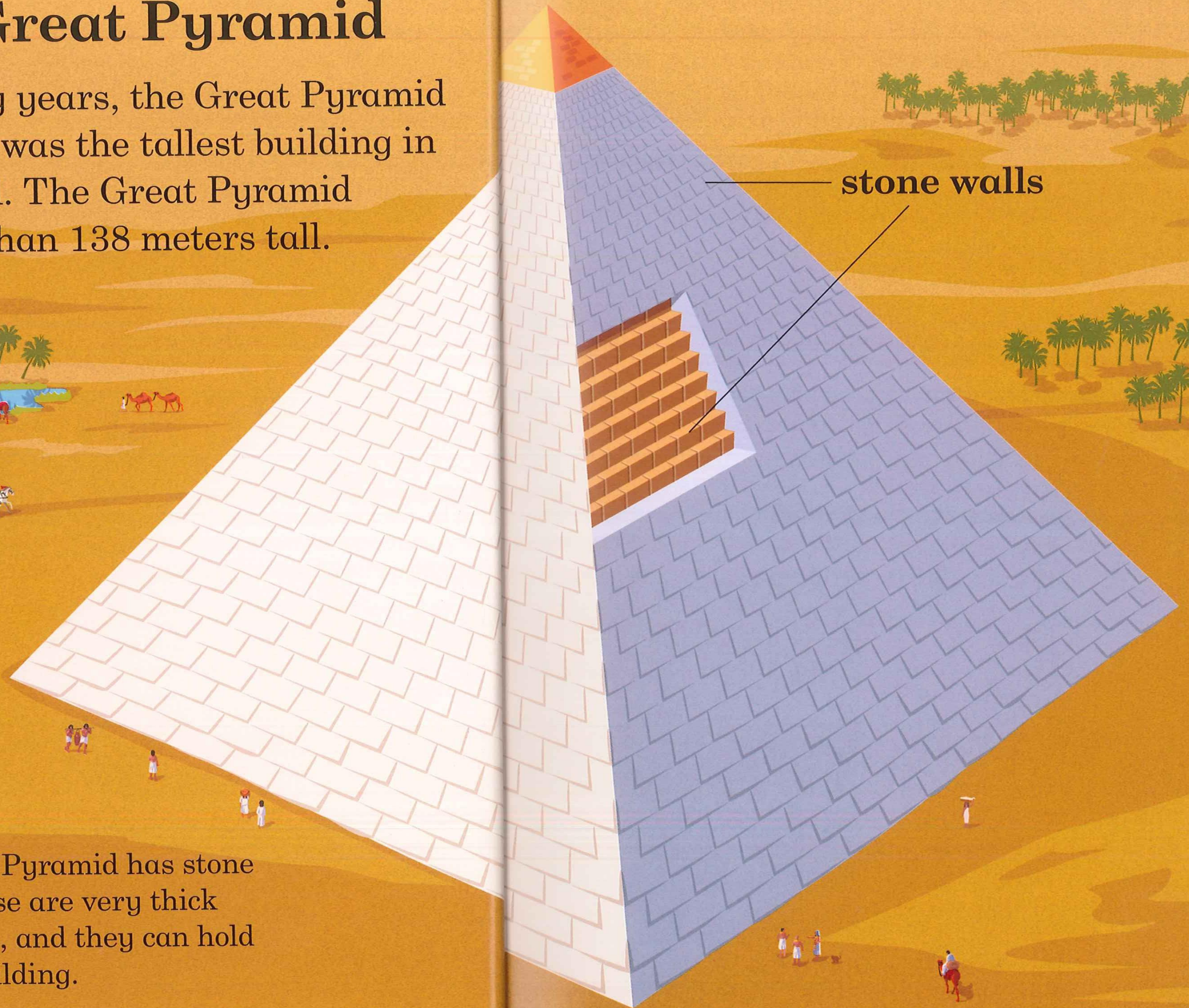
The Great Pyramid in Egypt is 4,500 years old.



The Great Wall of China is 2,000 years old.

The Great Pyramid

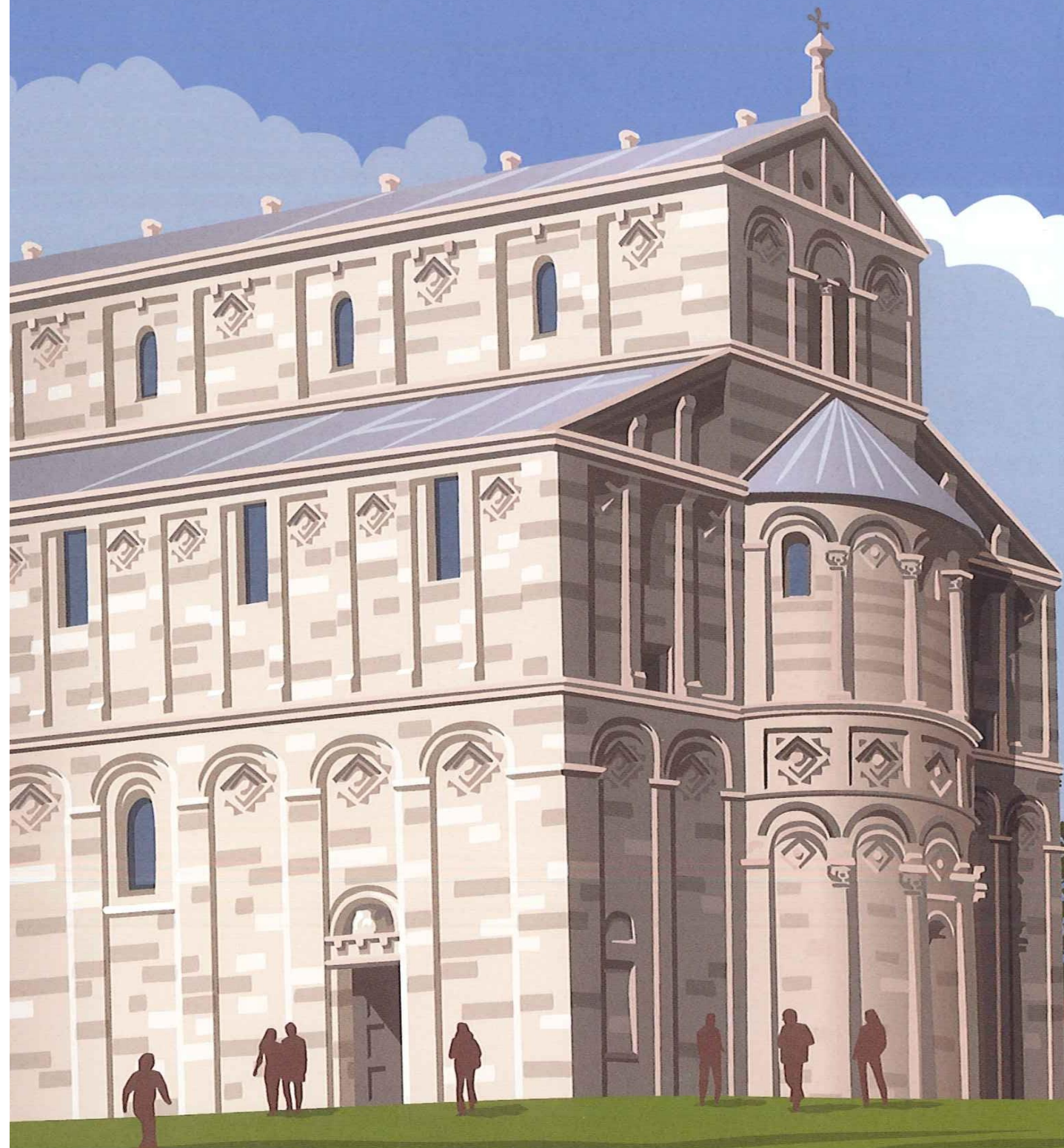
For many years, the Great Pyramid in Egypt was the tallest building in the world. The Great Pyramid is more than 138 meters tall.



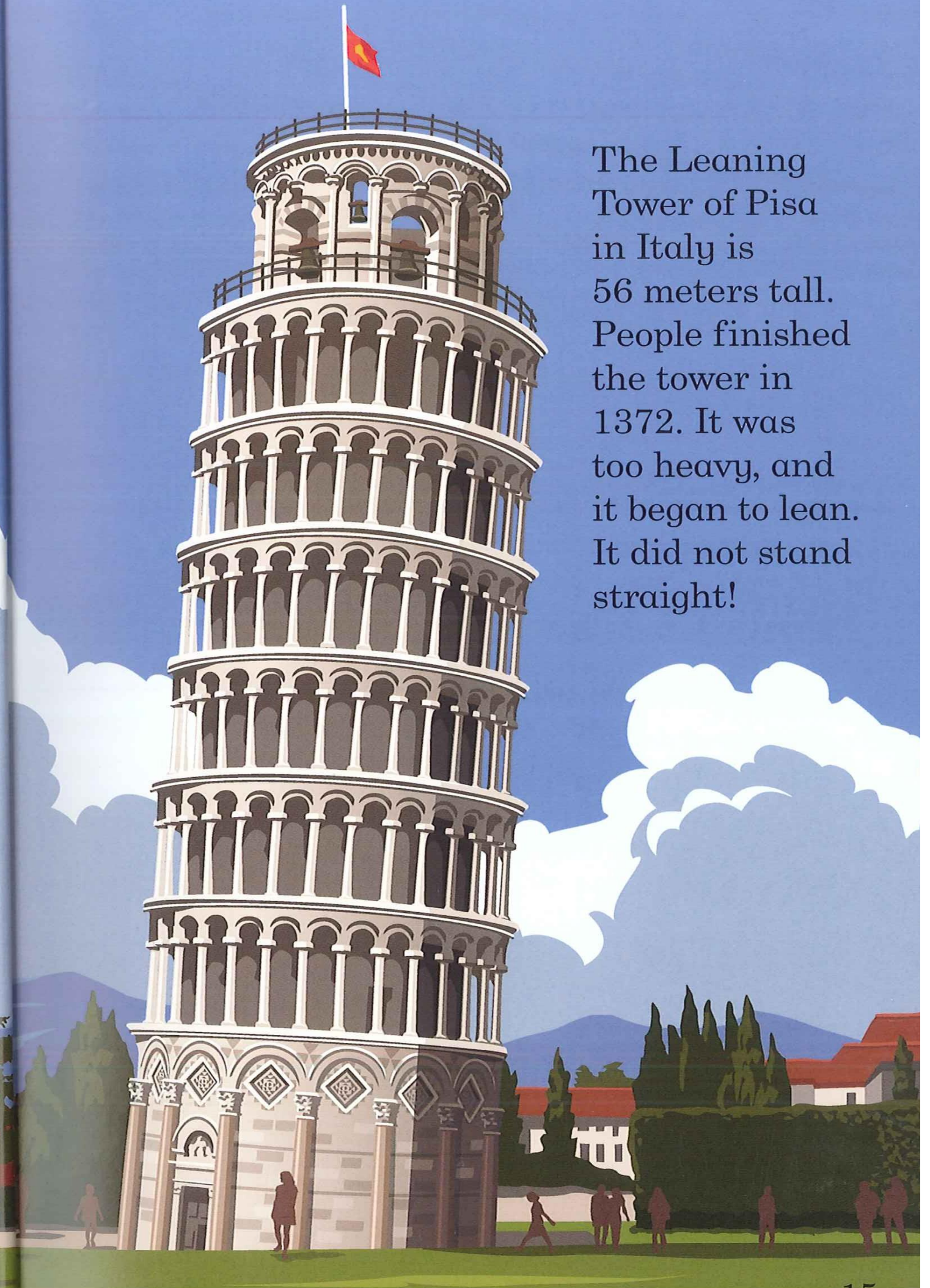
The Great Pyramid has stone walls. These are very thick and strong, and they can hold the tall building.

Leaning Tower of Pisa

Tall buildings are difficult to make. They need very strong stone walls. But stone walls can be too heavy.

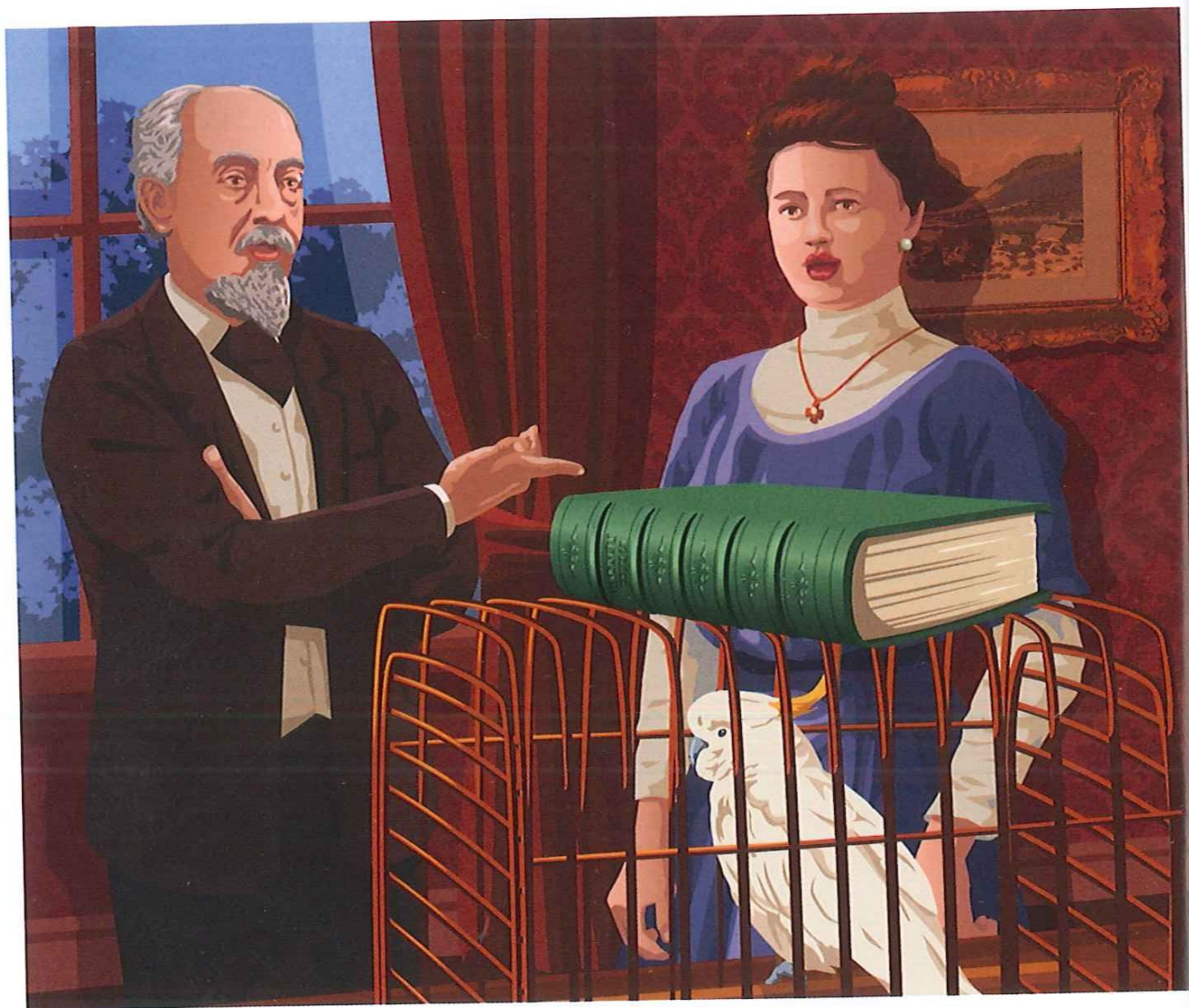


The Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy is 56 meters tall. People finished the tower in 1372. It was too heavy, and it began to lean. It did not stand straight!

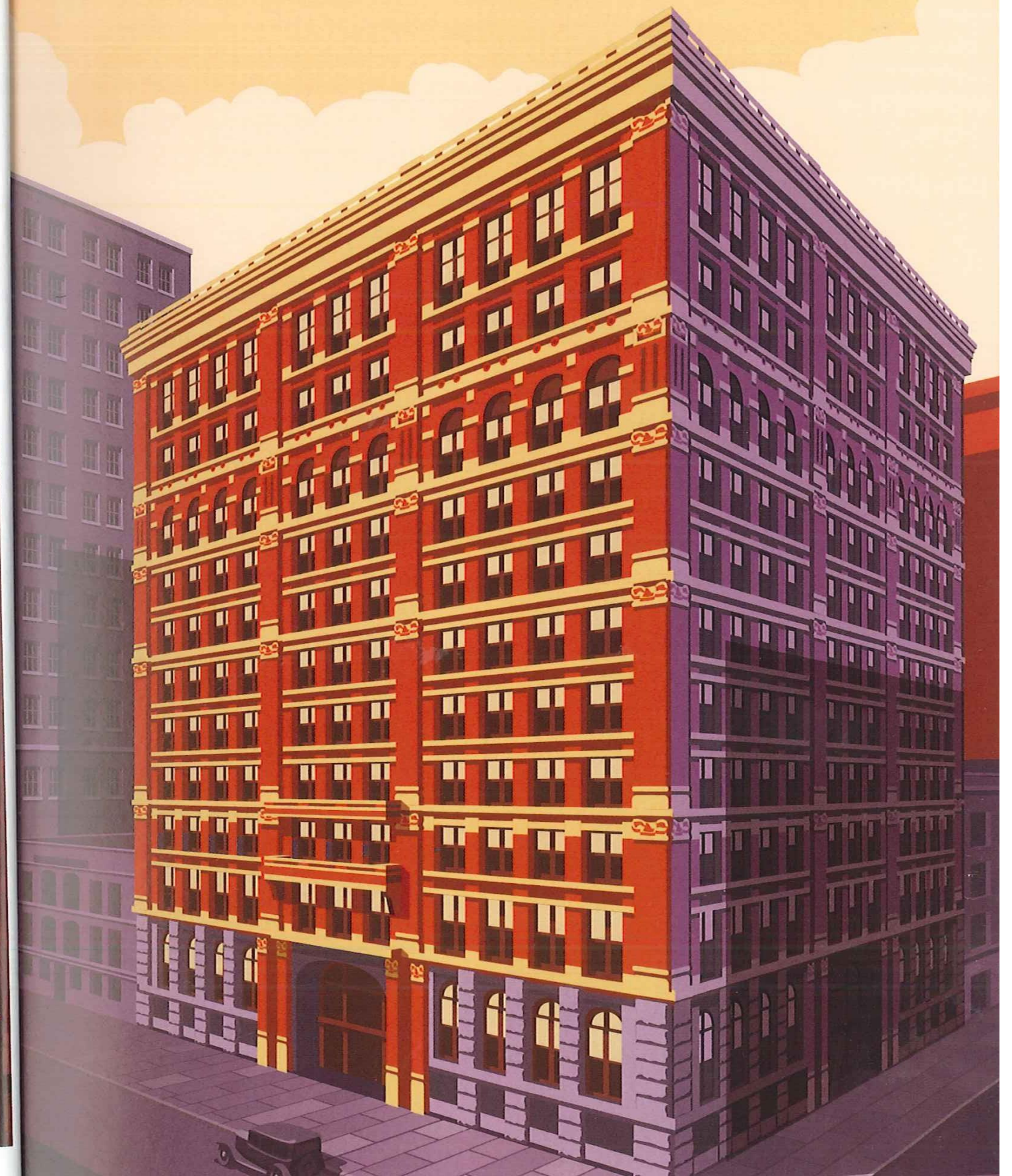


Tall buildings from small cages

One day, William Jenney put a heavy book on a little metal cage. He saw the cage was very strong, and it could carry heavy things. William used his idea to make some very tall buildings!



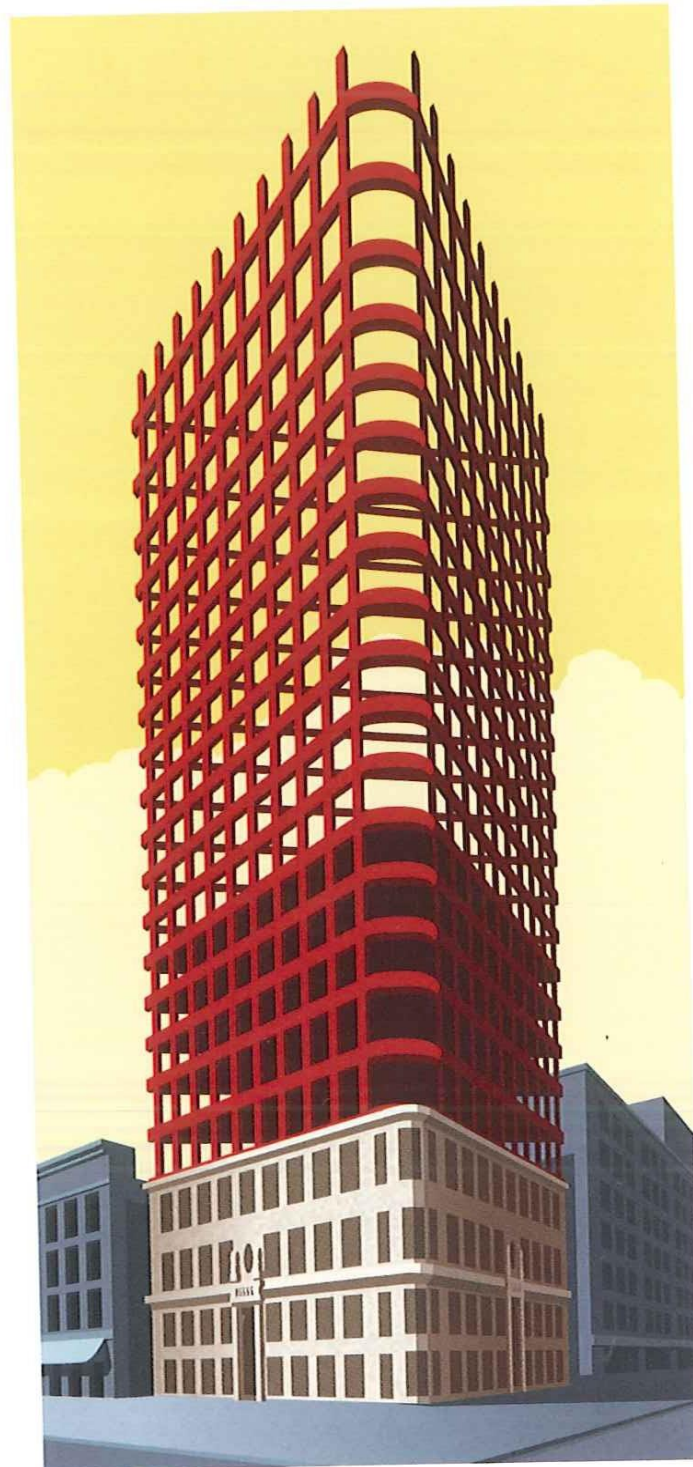
William Jenney made the world's first skyscraper in 1884.



Skyscrapers

People used William Jenney's idea to make taller and taller skyscrapers.

Skyscrapers don't need strong stone walls. Their walls are thin. The metal cage inside holds the walls, and this means the building can be very tall.



Taller and taller skyscrapers

People used the metal cage idea to make taller and taller skyscrapers. No skyscraper was the tallest building for very long—people soon made taller ones!

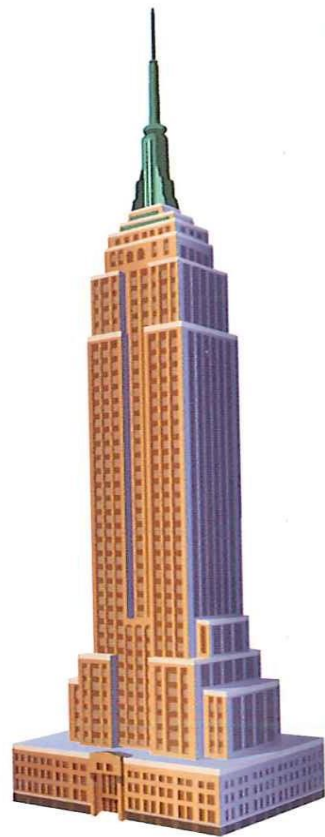
Tall, taller, tallest—here are some famous skyscrapers.



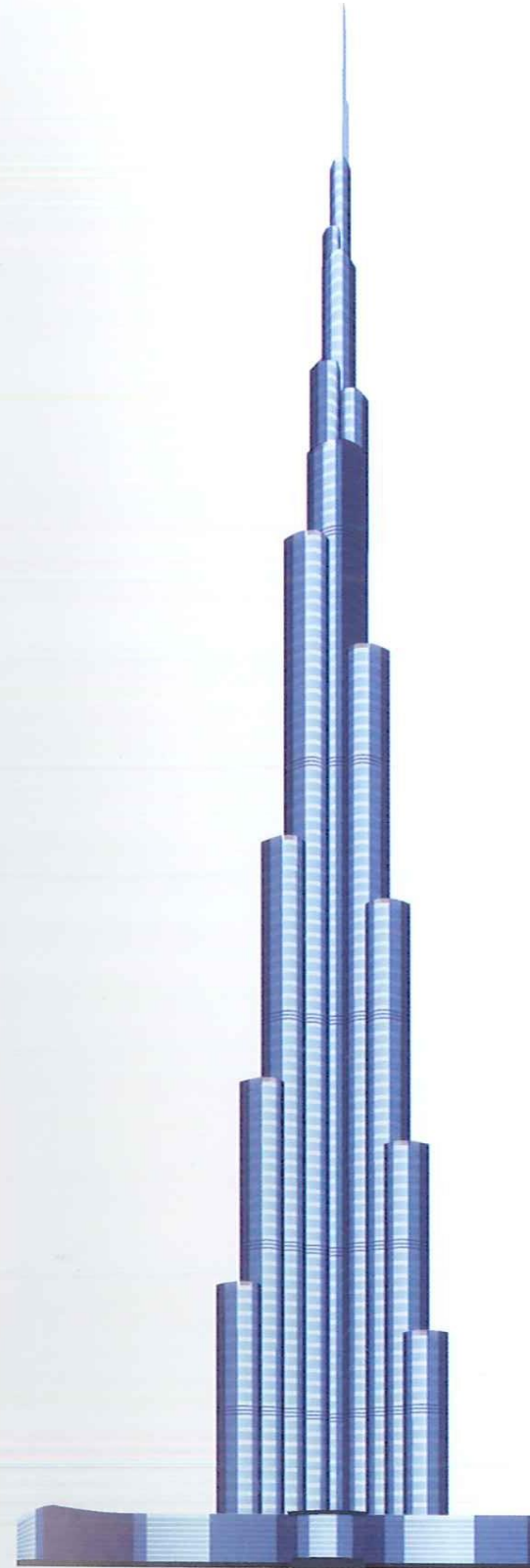
Home Insurance
Building
1884



Flatiron
Building
1902



Empire State
Building
1931



Burj Khalifa
2009

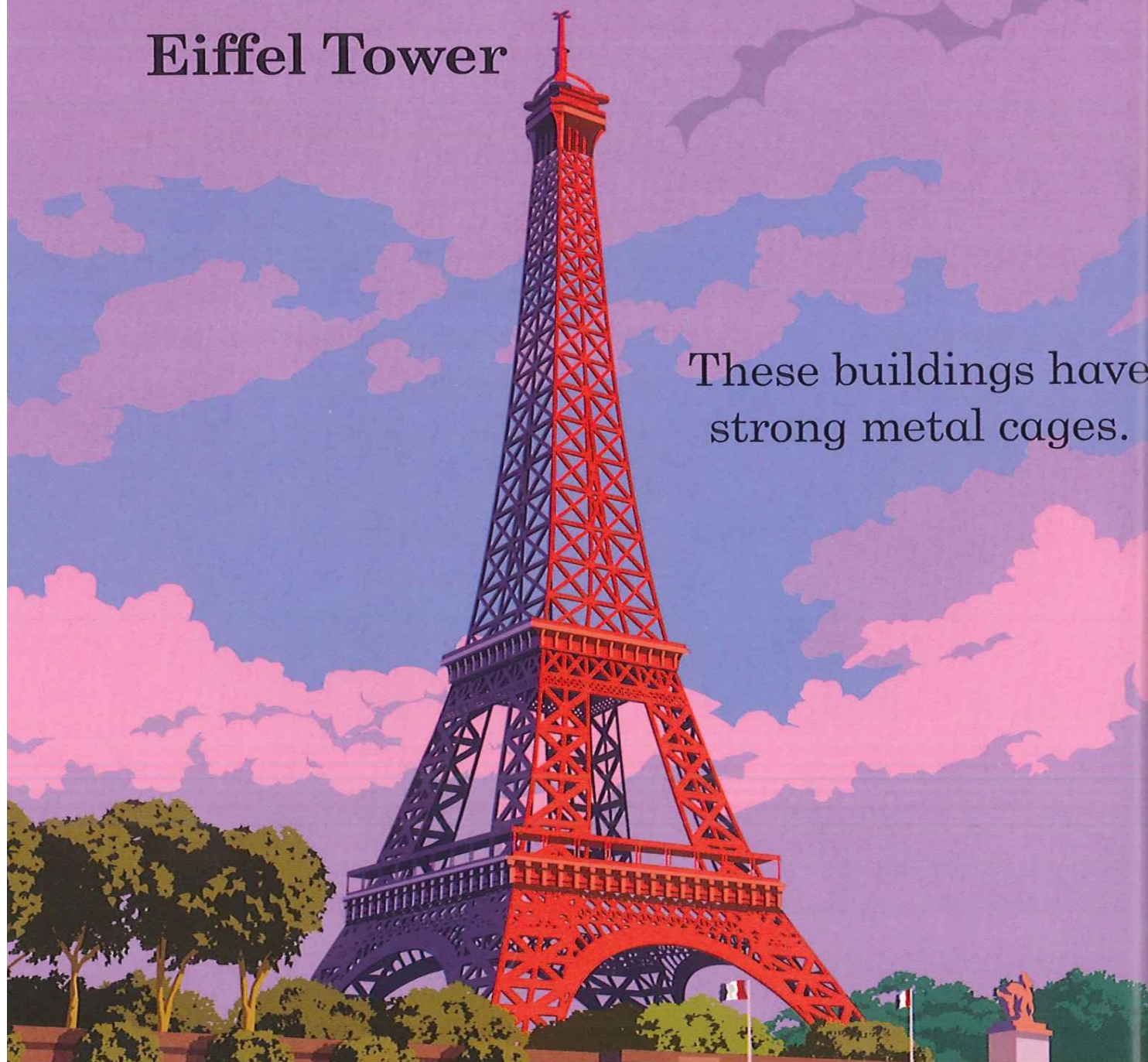


Jeddah Tower
2020

Metal cage buildings

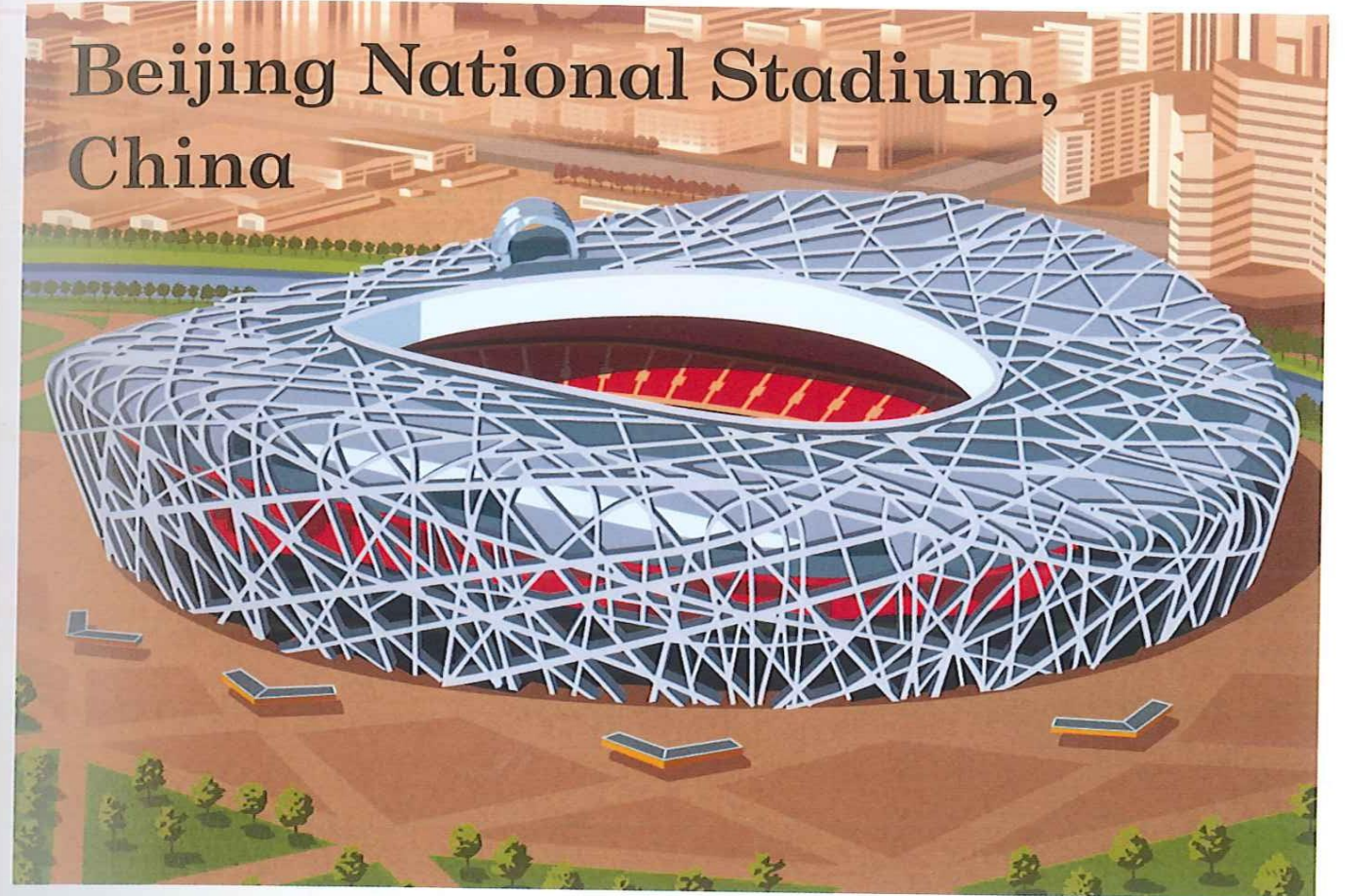
Tall buildings like the Eiffel Tower in France are not skyscrapers, but they have strong metal cages. They look beautiful.

Eiffel Tower



These buildings have strong metal cages.

Beijing National Stadium, China



ArcelorMittal Orbit, UK



Strong bridges

Bridges must be strong to cross big places.



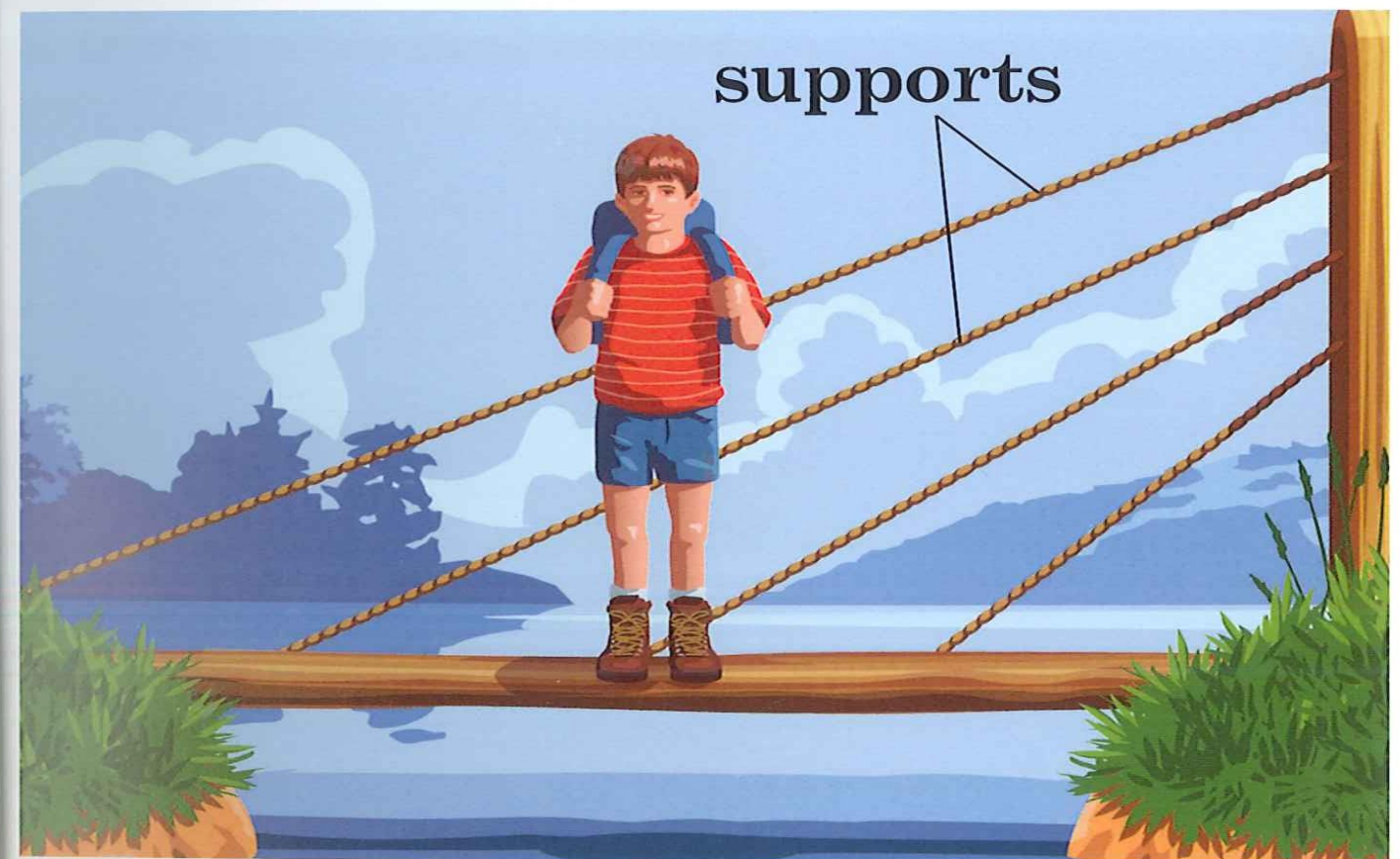
This bridge can cross a small river.



But this river is too big.



This bridge has a support under it.



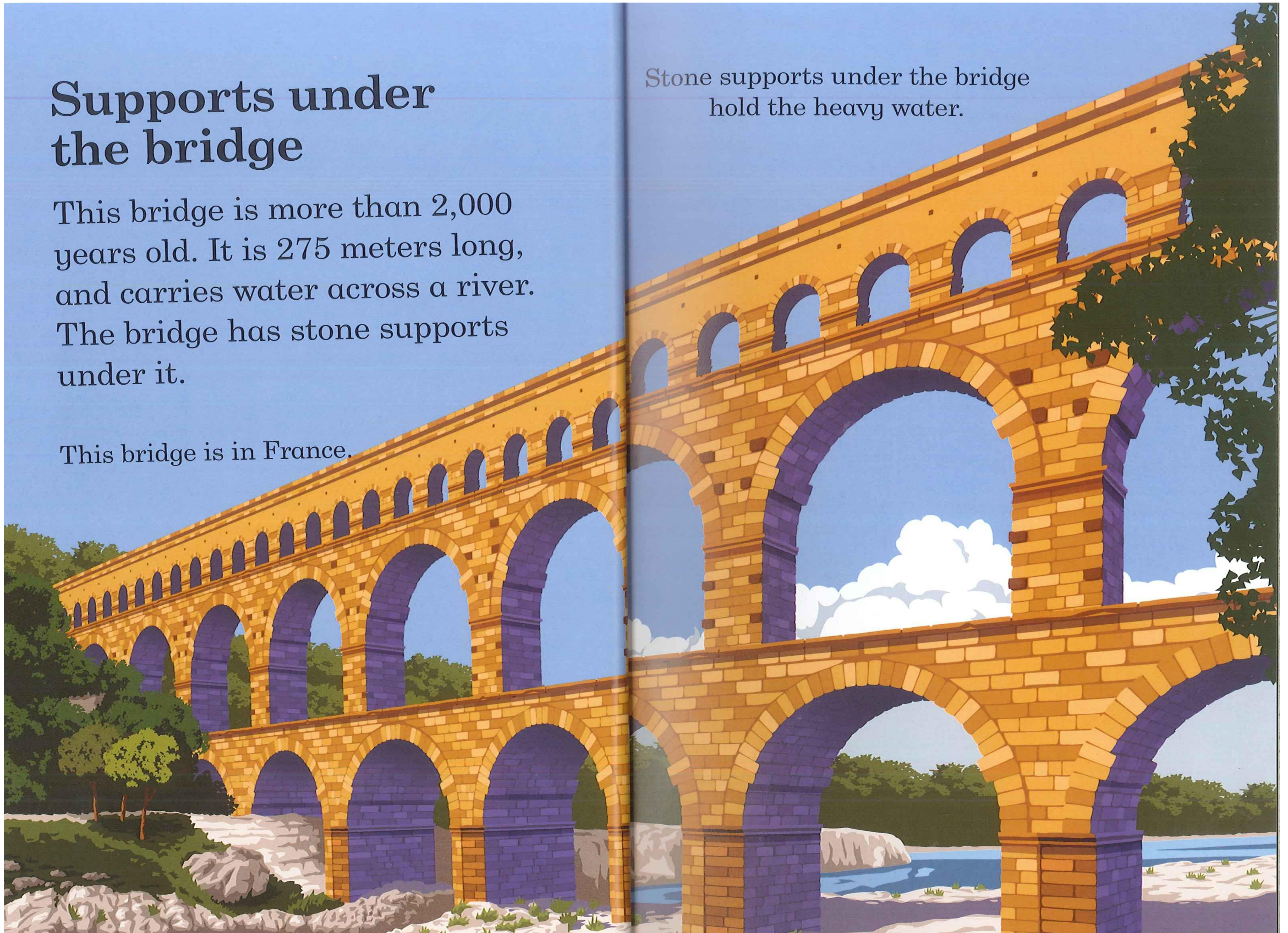
This bridge has supports that hold it.

Supports under the bridge

This bridge is more than 2,000 years old. It is 275 meters long, and carries water across a river. The bridge has stone supports under it.

This bridge is in France.

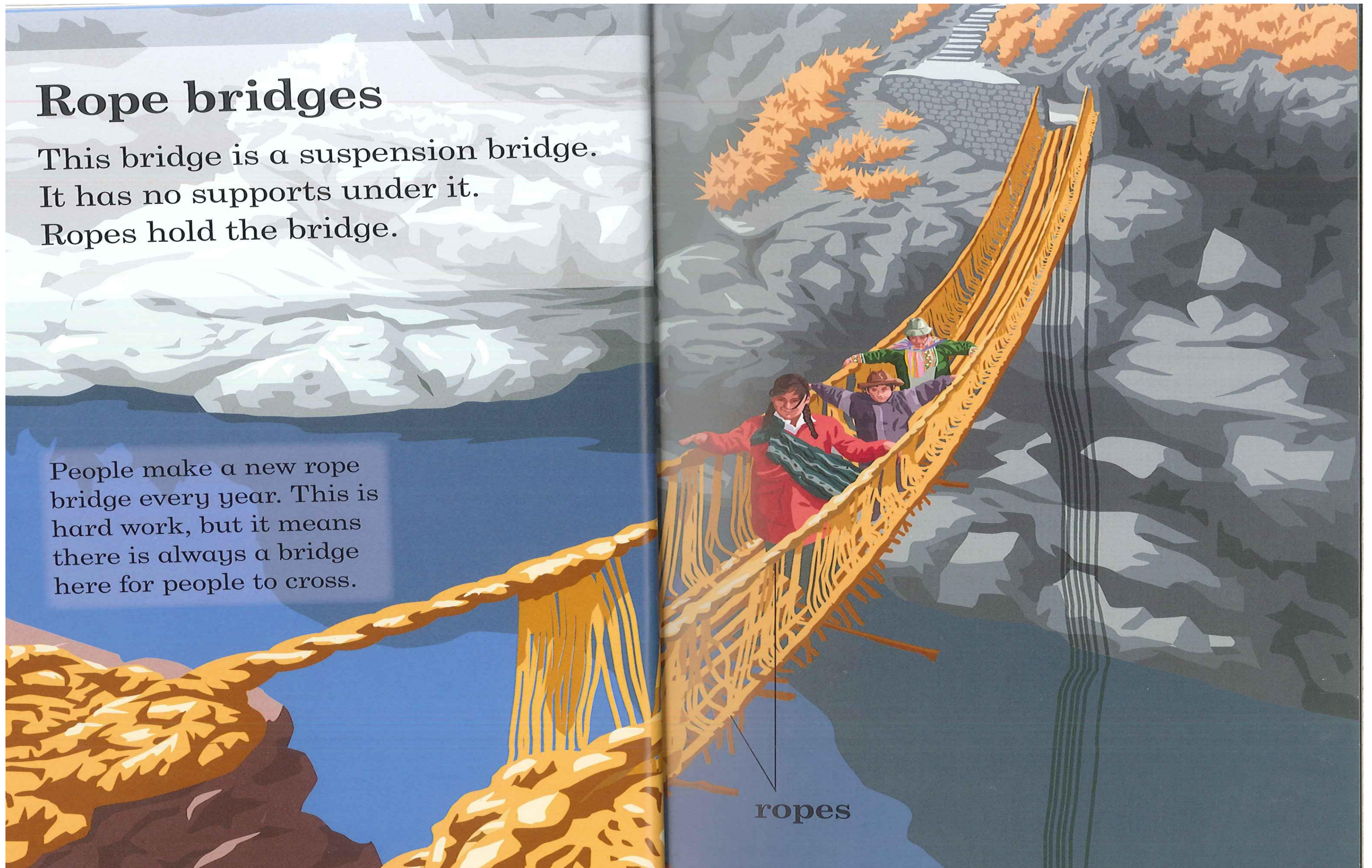
Stone supports under the bridge hold the heavy water.



Rope bridges

This bridge is a suspension bridge.
It has no supports under it.
Ropes hold the bridge.

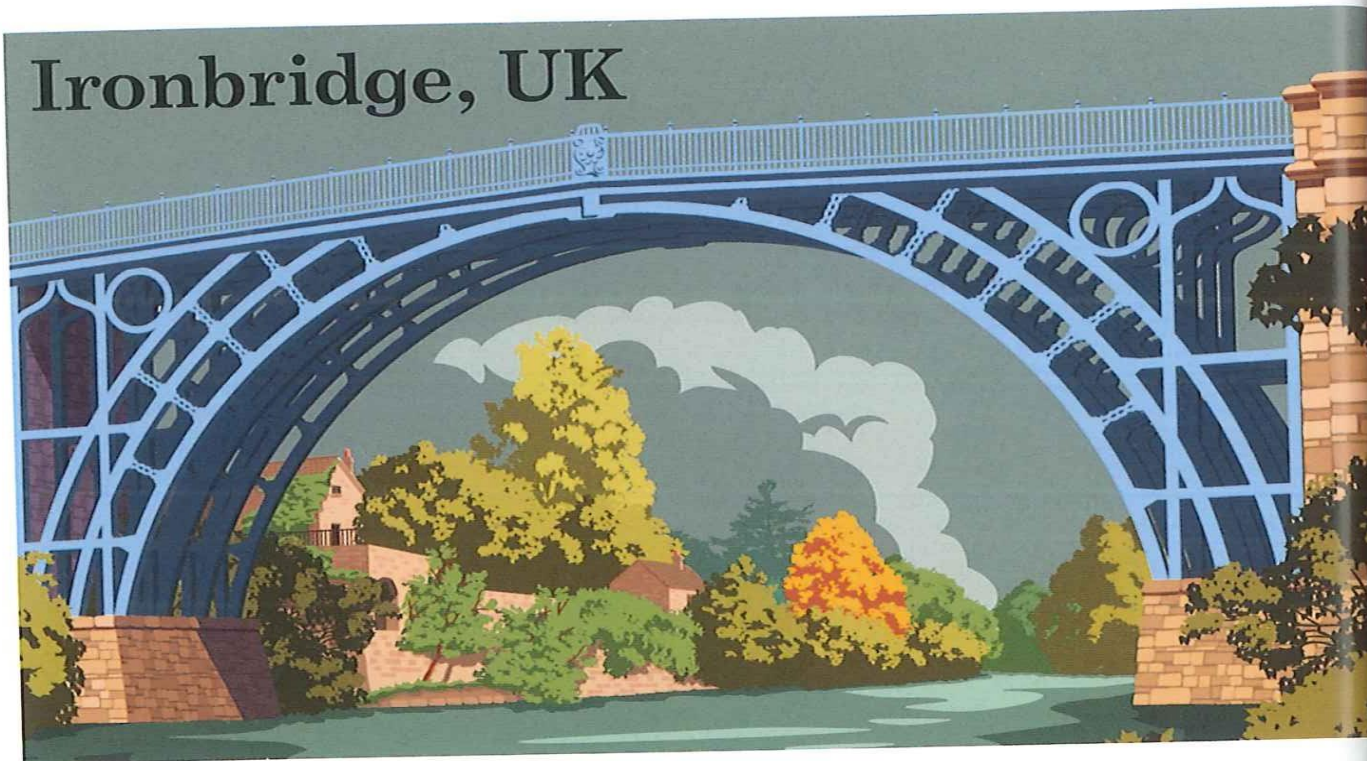
People make a new rope
bridge every year. This is
hard work, but it means
there is always a bridge
here for people to cross.



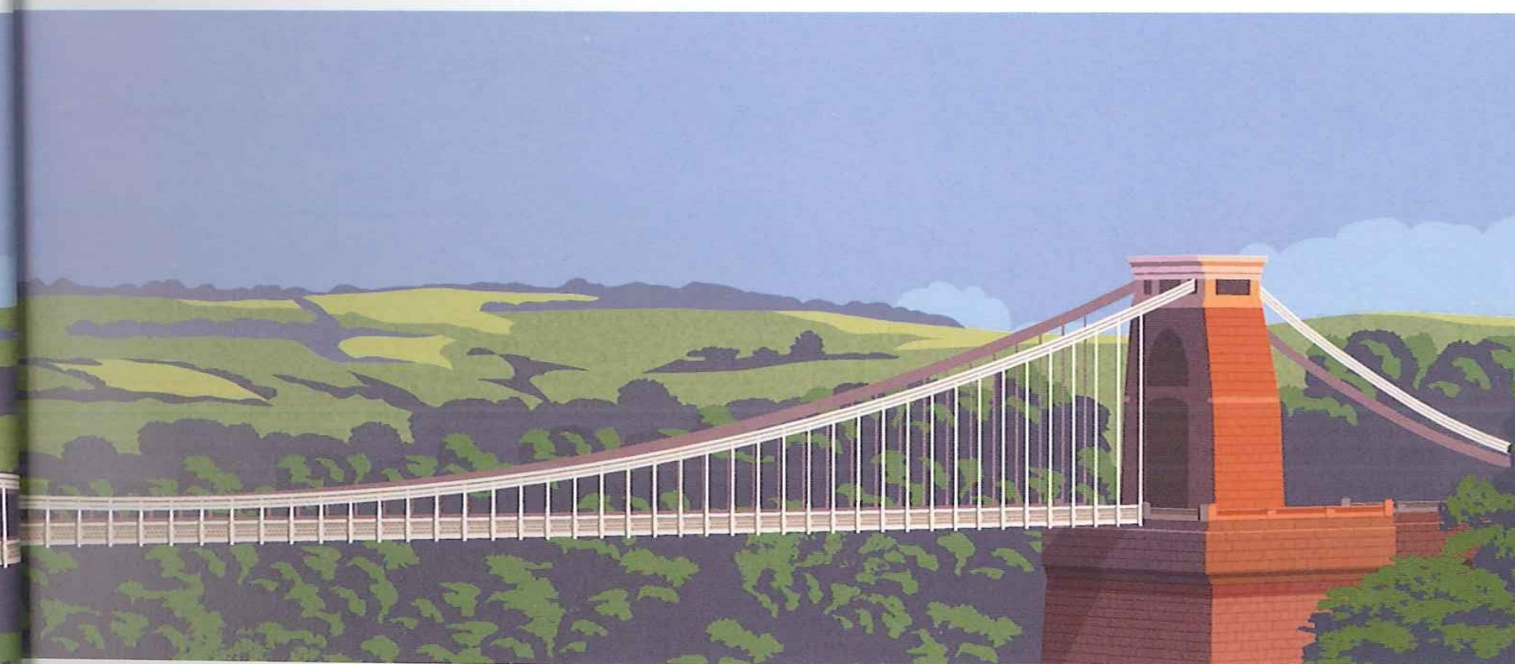
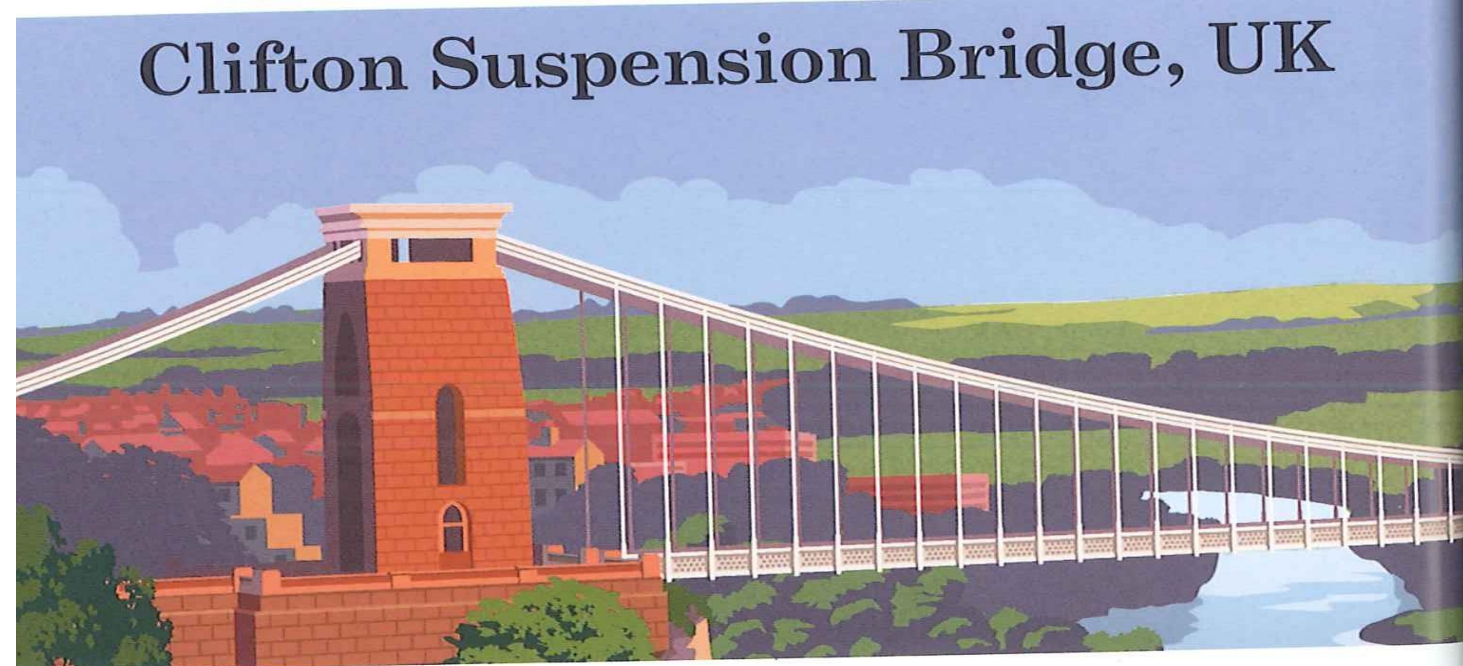
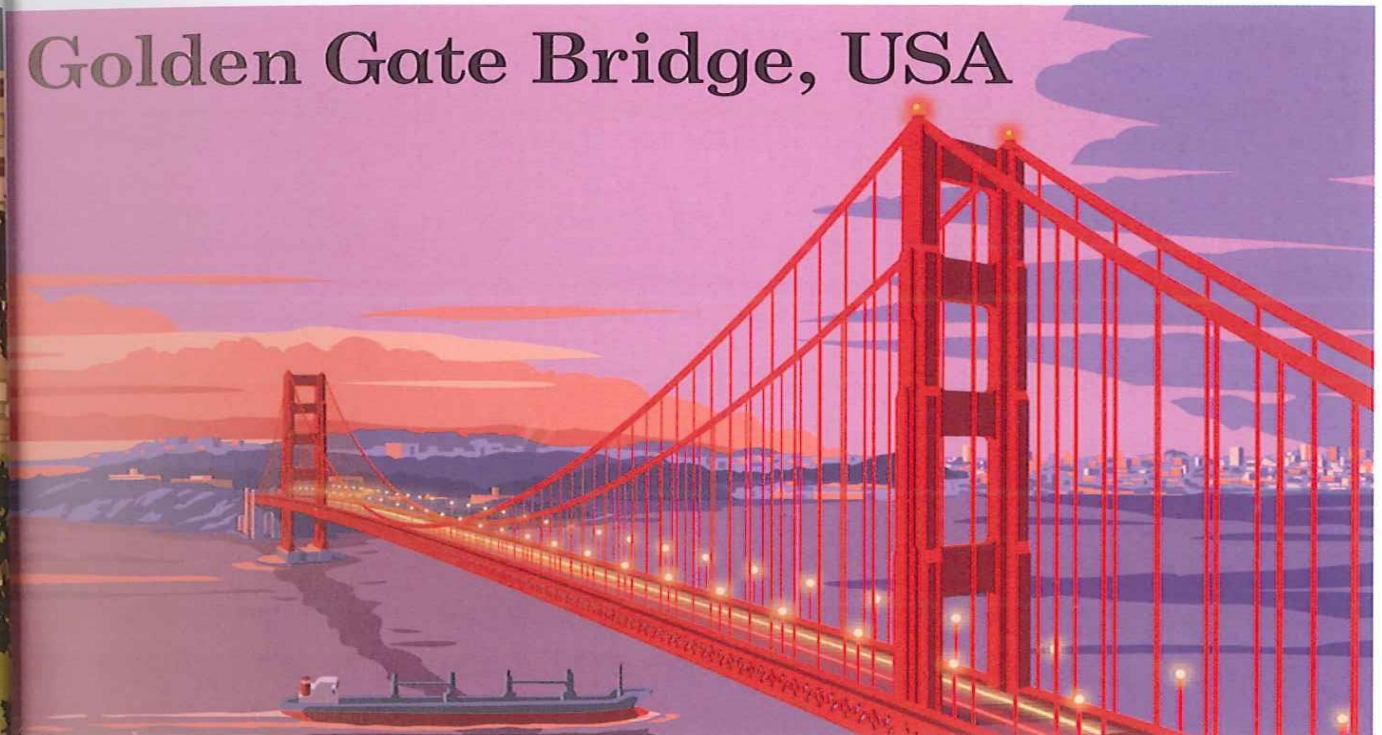
ropes

Metal bridges

People learned to make very strong bridges out of metal and concrete.



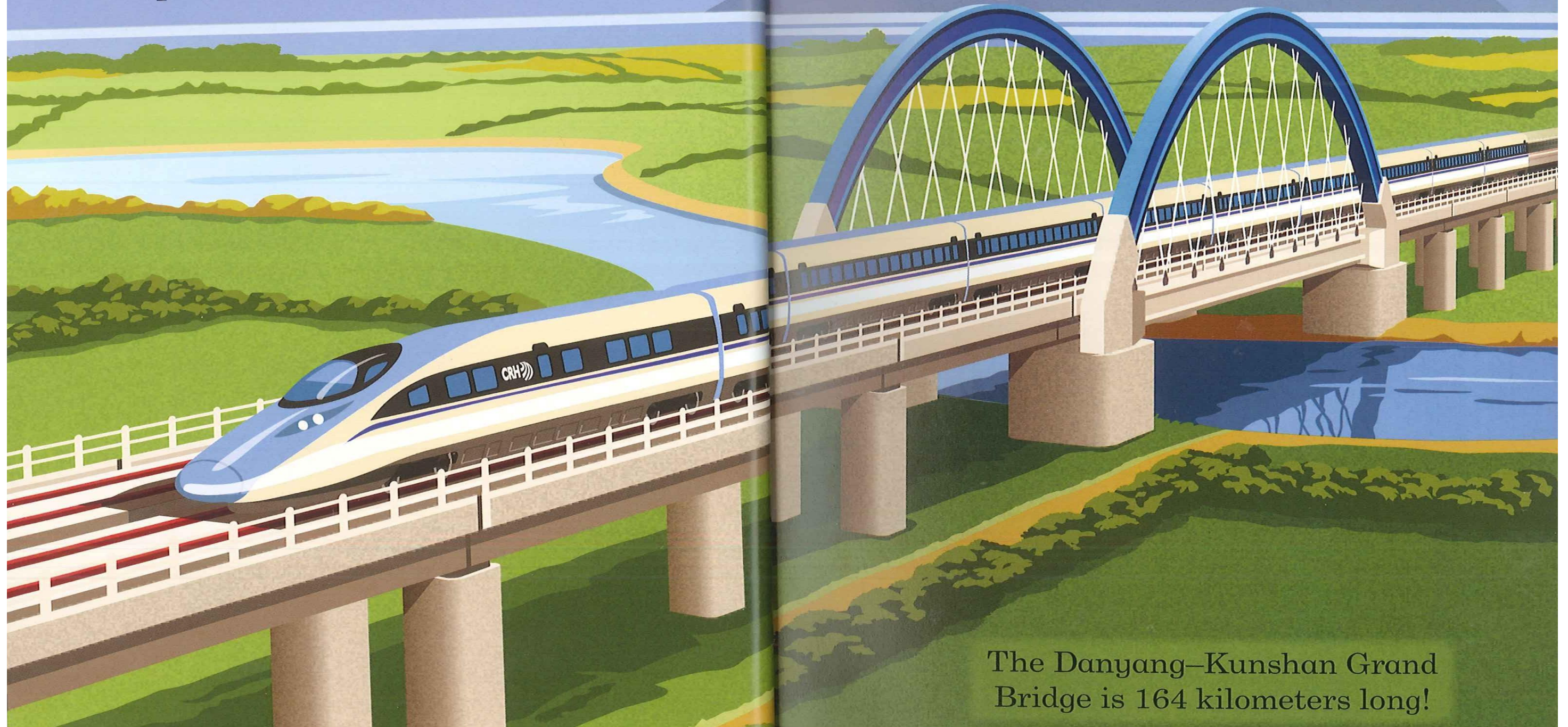
Now, bridges can be very long, they can stand for many years.



These three bridges have

The longest bridge

The Danyang–Kunshan Grand Bridge in China is the longest bridge in the world. Part of it has supports, and part of it is a suspension bridge.



The Danyang–Kunshan Grand Bridge is 164 kilometers long!

Moving bridges

Some bridges, like Tower Bridge in London, UK, can move. This helps big things to go under them. First, the bridge moves up, then it moves down. Then, people can cross the bridge again.



The bridge is down.

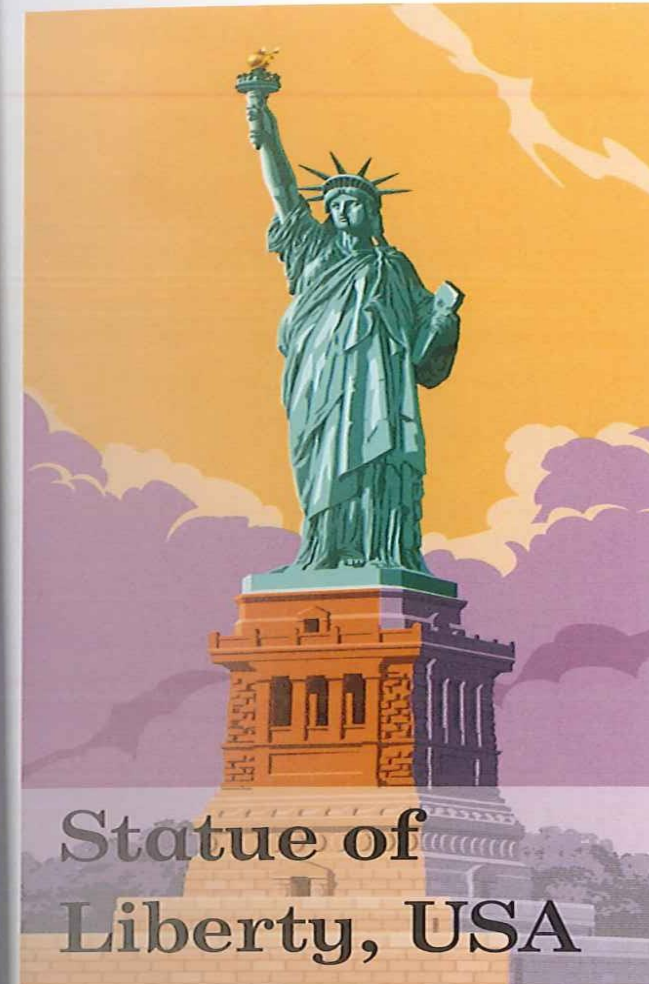


Then, Tower Bridge moves up and boats go under it.

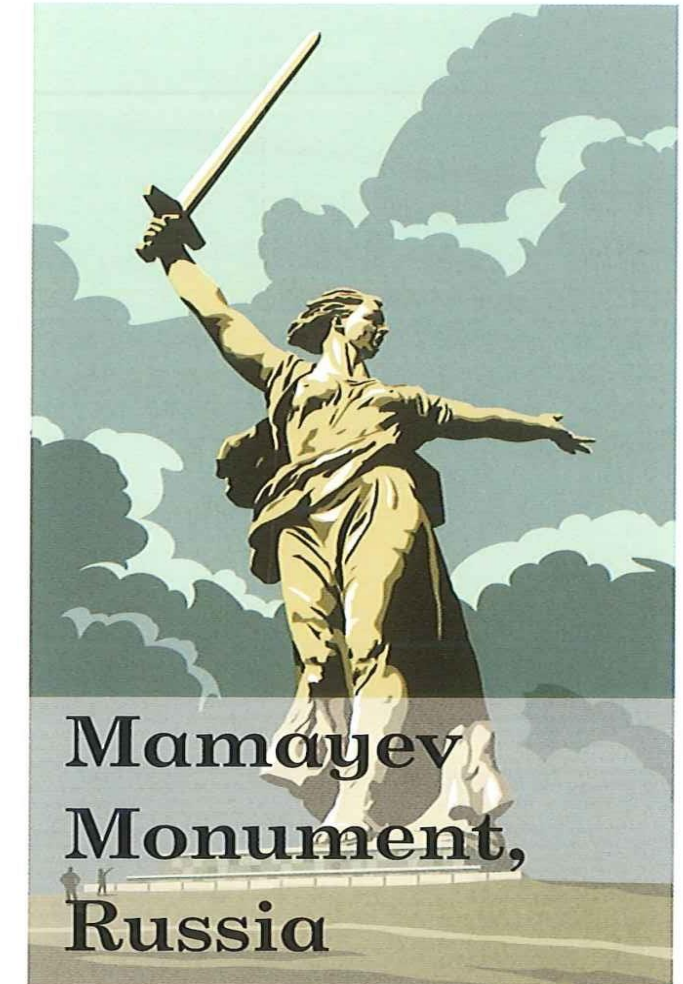
Super statues

People make statues look like people or other things. Many statues show famous people.

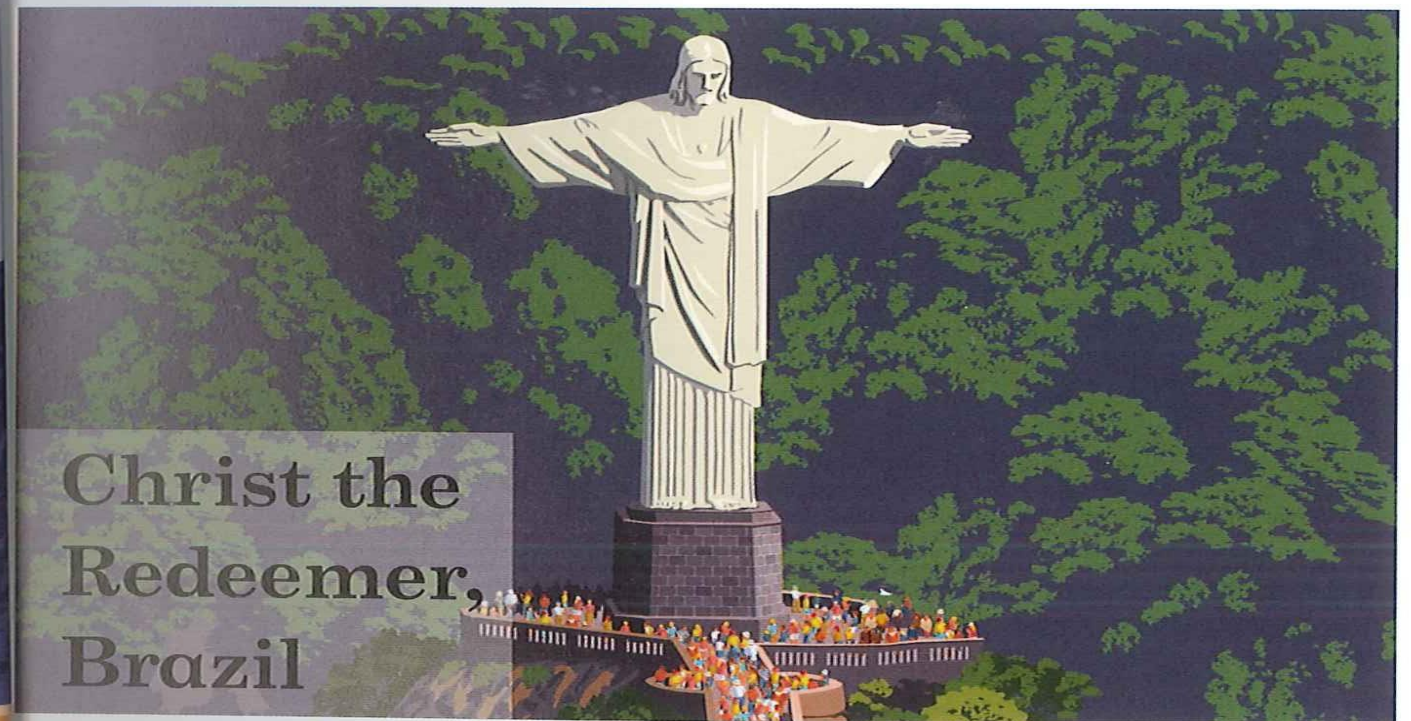
Spring Temple Buddha, China



Statue of
Liberty, USA



Mamayev
Monument,
Russia



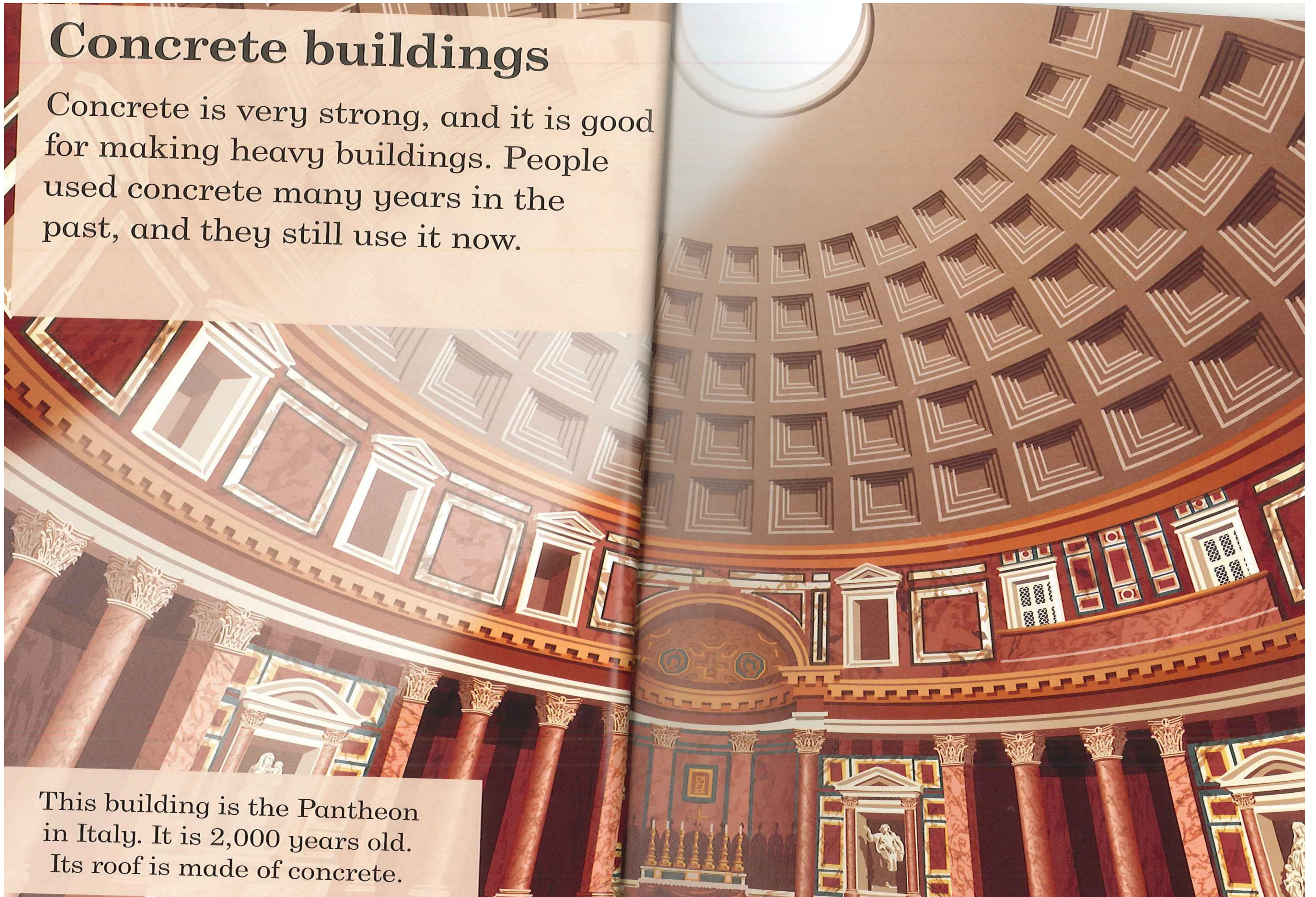
Christ the
Redeemer,
Brazil

Some of the tallest statues in the world show famous people.

Concrete buildings

Concrete is very strong, and it is good for making heavy buildings. People used concrete many years in the past, and they still use it now.

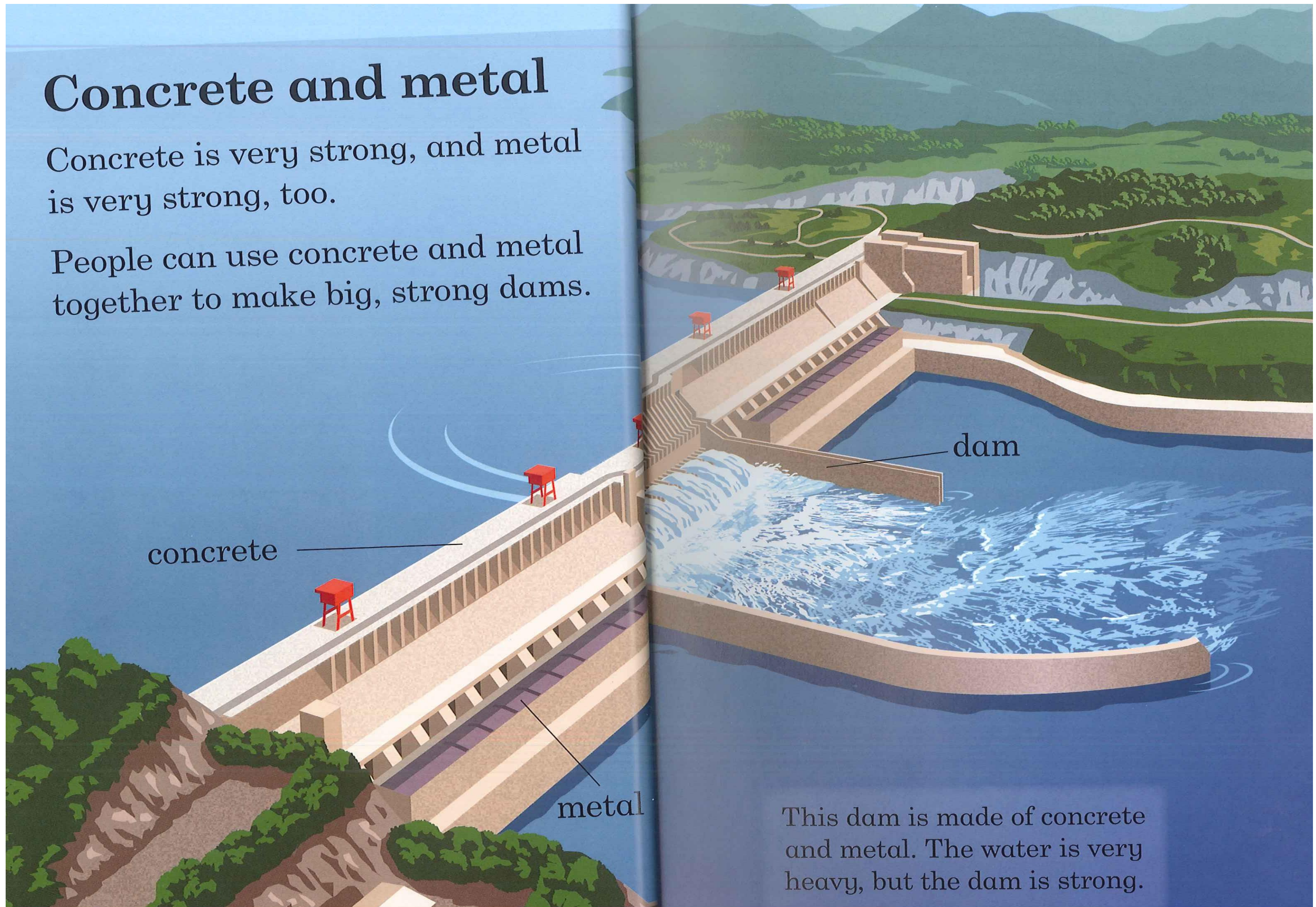
This building is the Pantheon in Italy. It is 2,000 years old. Its roof is made of concrete.



Concrete and metal

Concrete is very strong, and metal is very strong, too.

People can use concrete and metal together to make big, strong dams.



concrete

metal

dam

This dam is made of concrete and metal. The water is very heavy, but the dam is strong.

Sydney Opera House

The Sydney Opera House in Australia has a beautiful concrete roof. It was very difficult to make this roof out of concrete.

People started making the Sydney Opera House in 1958, and they finished it in 1973.

concrete roof



Activities

The key below describes the skills practiced in each activity.



Spelling and writing



Reading



Speaking



Critical thinking



Preparation for the Cambridge Young Learners Exams



1

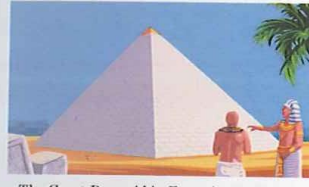
Look and read. Put a or a in the boxes.

Old buildings

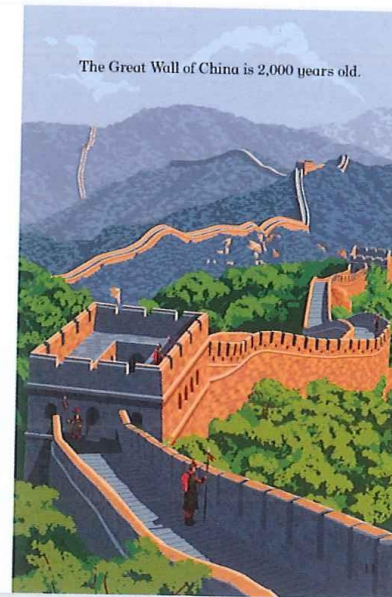
Some great buildings are very old.



Stonehenge in England is 4,500 years old.



The Great Pyramid in Egypt is 4,500 years old.

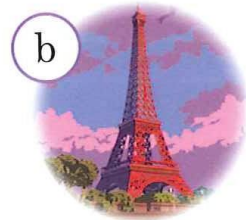
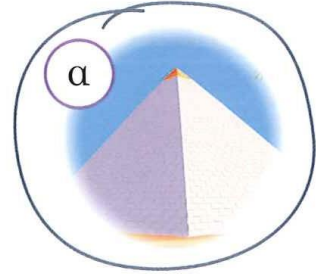


The Great Wall of China is 2,000 years old.

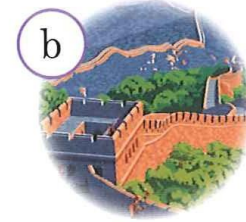
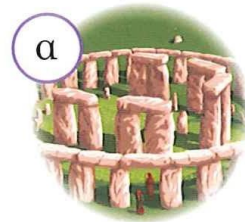
- 1 Some great buildings are very old.
- 2 Stonehenge is 4,500 years old.
- 3 The Great Wall of China is 2,500 years old.
- 4 The Great Wall of China is not as old as Stonehenge.
- 5 Stonehenge is older than The Great Pyramid.

2 Circle the correct pictures. 

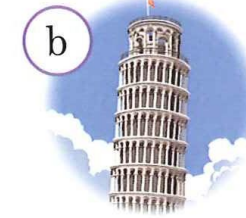
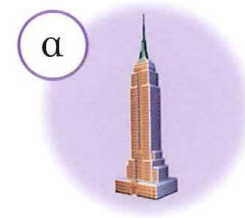
1 This building has strong stone walls



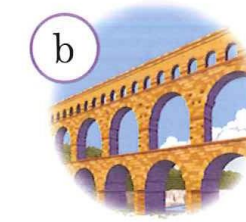
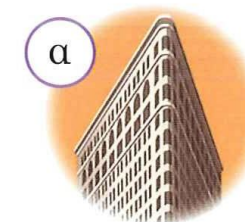
2 This long stone wall is in China.



3 This building does not stand straight



4 This building has a metal cage inside it.



3 Choose the correct words and write them on the lines.   

- stone walls metal cage
- suspension bridge skyscraper

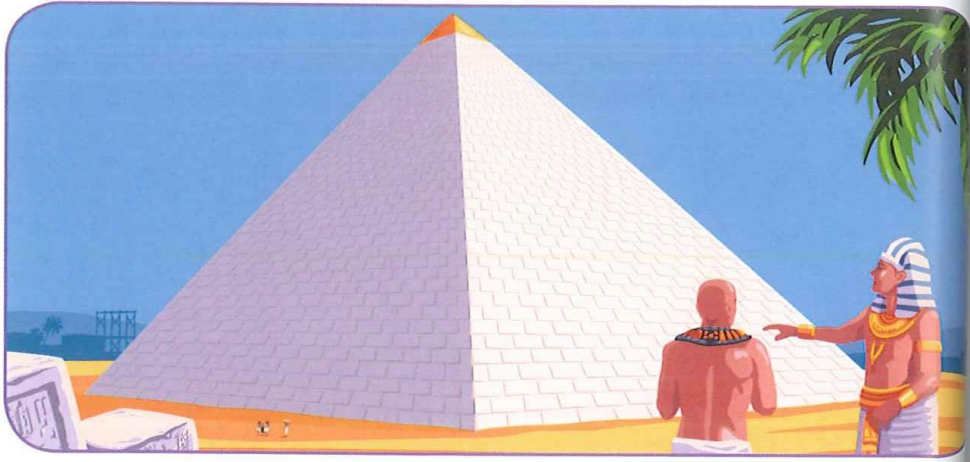
1 The Great Pyramid in Egypt has these. stone walls

2 William Jenney used this to make very tall buildings. _____




3 This is a very tall building with thin walls. _____

4 This is a bridge with ropes and no supports under it. _____

4 Match the two parts of the sentences. 



- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 For many years, the world's tallest building was | a stone wall |
| 2 The Great Pyramid is more than | b very thick and strong |
| 3 The Great Pyramid has | c the Great Pyramid in Egypt. |
| 4 The Great Pyramid's walls are | d hold the tallest building. |
| 5 The Great Pyramid's walls can | e 138 meters tall. |

5 Read the questions. Write complete answers.   

1 Are tall buildings difficult to make?
 Yes, they are.

2 Do tall buildings need strong stone walls?

3 Why can stone walls be a problem?

4 What was the problem with the Leaning Tower of Pisa?



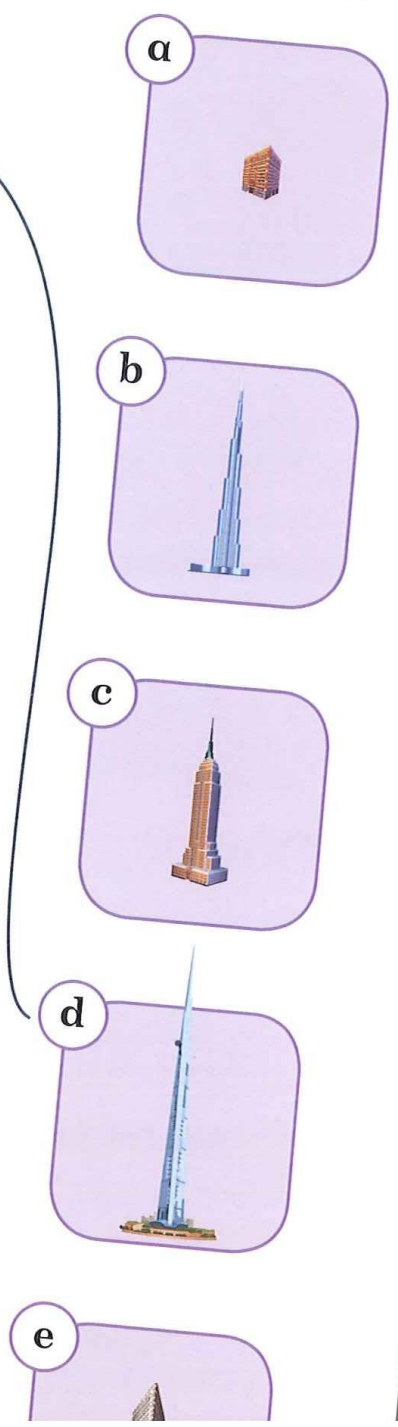
6 Look and read. Circle the correct words. 



- 1 William Jenney put a book on a little metal / concrete cage.
- 2 He saw the cage could carry heavy / tall things.
- 3 William Jenney used his idea to make cages. / skyscrapers.
- 4 A metal cage / Thick stone holds a skyscraper's walls.
- 5 This means a skyscraper can be

7 Match the words to the pictures.  

- 1 This is the tallest building.
- 2 This is the shortest building.
- 3 This building is older than the Empire State Building, but not as old as the Home Insurance Building.
- 4 This building is newer than the Flatiron building, but not as new as the Burj Khalifa.
- 5 This building is taller than the Empire State building, but not as tall as the Burj Khalifa.



8 Do the crossword.  

Down

- 1 A metal . . . holds the walls of the skyscraper.
- 4 Skyscrapers have . . . walls.

Across

- 2 Skyscrapers are very . . .
- 3 Skyscrapers don't need strong . . . walls.
- 5 Tall . . . are difficult to make.

9 Read the sentences. Choose the correct words and write them next to 1—4.   

1 can	cannot	can't
2 too small	too big	biggest
3 on	in	under
4 hold	strong	make



1 This bridge can cross a small river.



2 This river is



3 This bridge has a support it.



4 Supports this bridge.

14 Find the words. 

m	u	r	q	u	s	e	s	d
e	w	u	l	q	r	n	e	a
t	s	t	o	n	e	a	q	m
a	c	o	n	c	r	e	t	e
l	o	b	r	d	d	e	c	h
d	b	r	i	d	g	e	h	c
s	u	r	o	p	e	s	t	m
w	h	i	l	o	i	n	s	r



concrete



dam



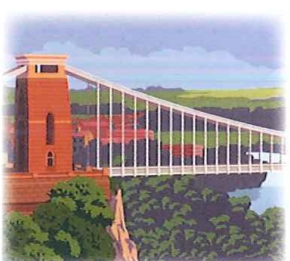
metal



rope



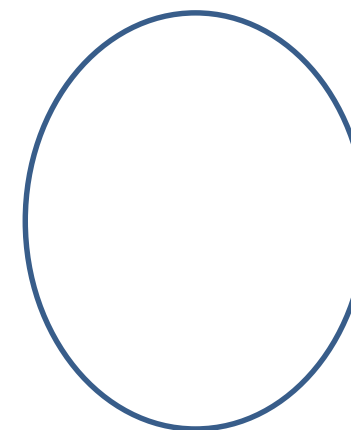
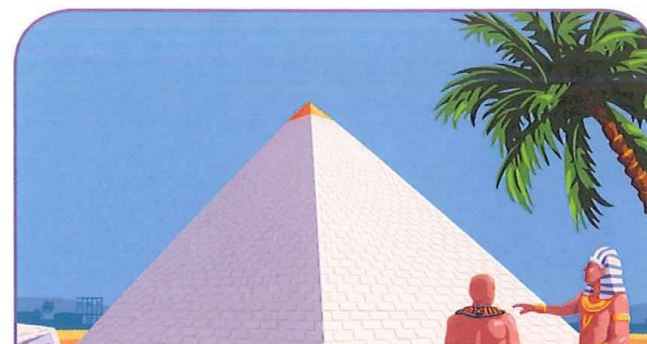
stone



bridge

15 Circle the correct words.  

- The Great Pyramid has very thick, strong
a concrete walls. **b stone walls.**
- The Great Pyramid is in
a Australia. b Egypt.
- The Leaning Tower of Pisa's stone walls are
a too tall. b too heavy.
- The Leaning Tower of Pisa is in
a Italy. b China.
- The Leaning Tower of Pisa is
a 1,372 meters tall.
b 56 meters tall.



18 Look, match, and write the words.

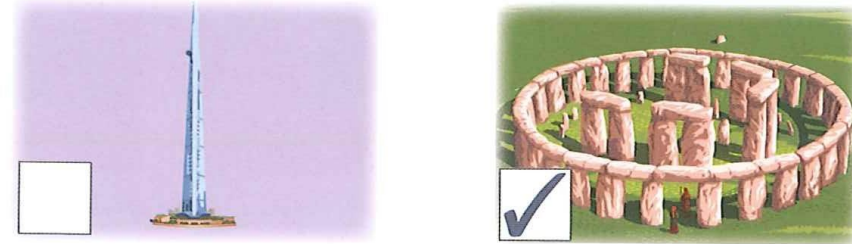


1	Eiffel	Gate Bridge
2	Golden	of Pisa
3	Tower	Tower
4	Leaning Tower	Bridge

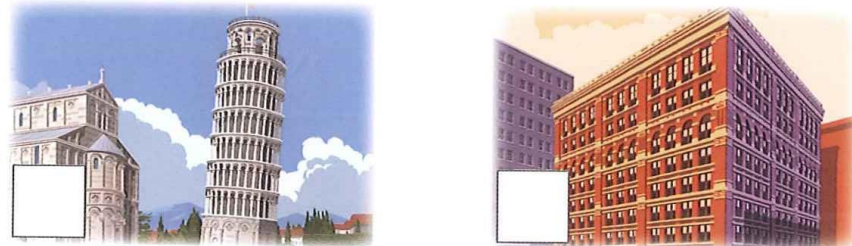
1 Eiffel Tower
2
3
4

19 Look and read. Put a by the correct pictures.

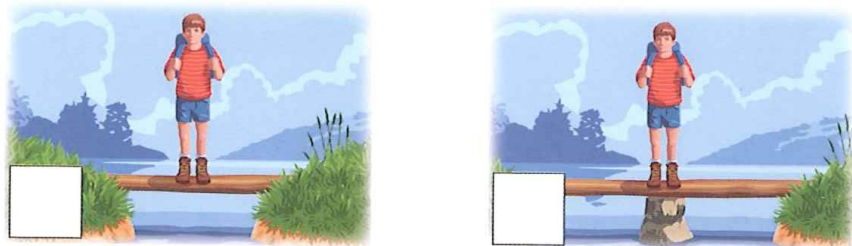
1 This is an old building.



2 This is not a straight building.



3 This bridge has supports that hold it.



4 This is the longest bridge in the world.

