

Search and find

HISTORY



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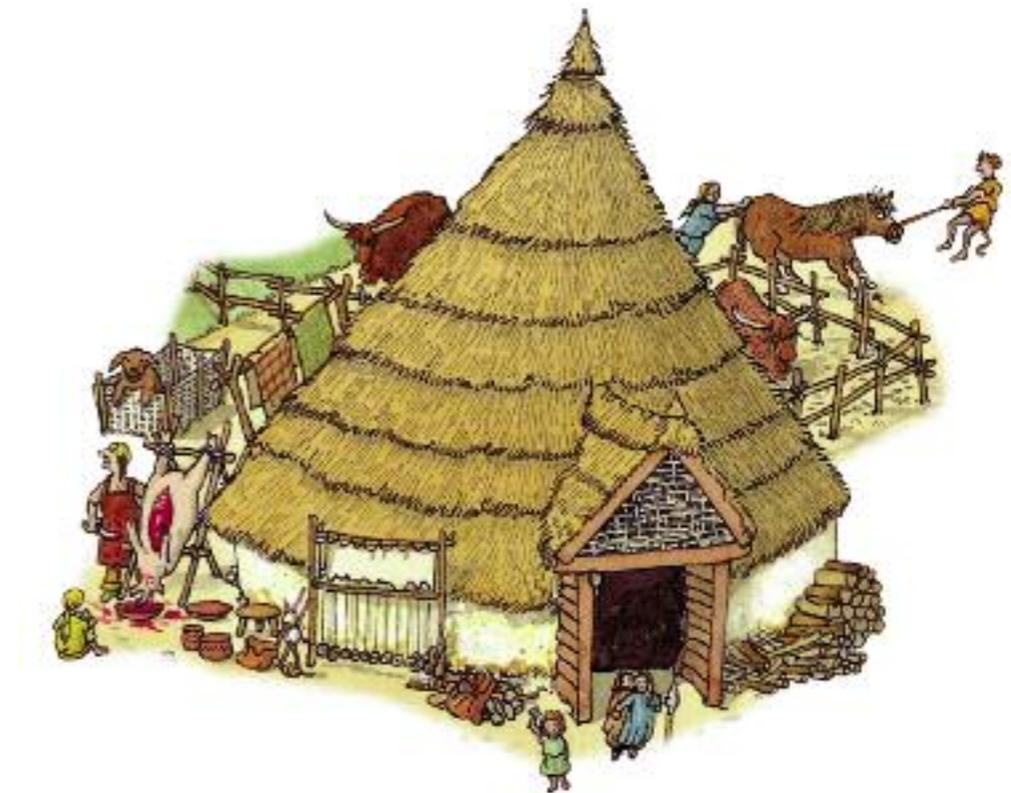
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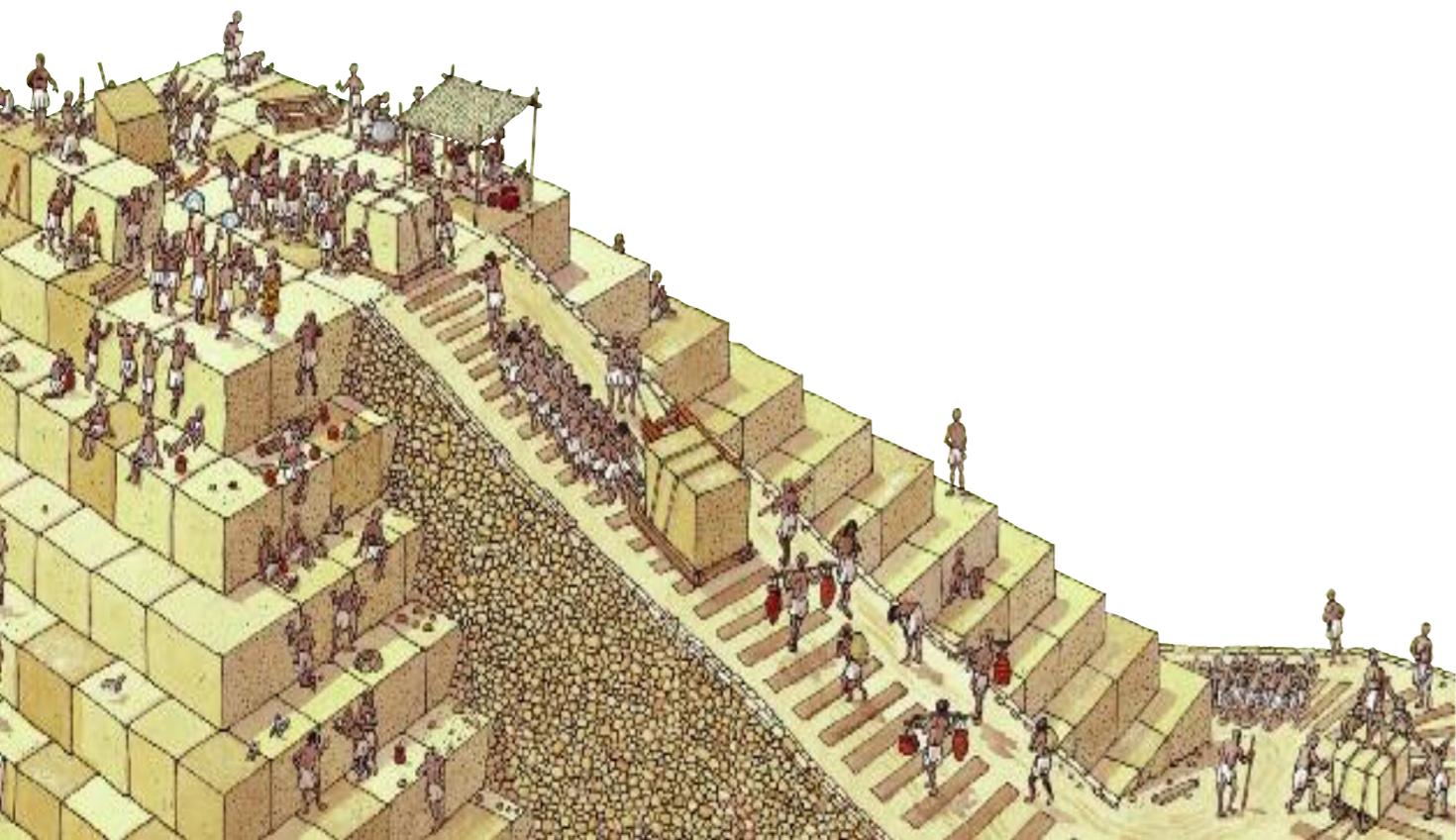
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Illustrated by Peter Kent

 Orpheus





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Introduction

This book takes you on an exciting journey into the past. You can find out what it was like to live in the days of Ancient Egypt or Rome.

You can have fun exploring a castle or a galleon in their days of glory, dodge the bullets in the Wild West or join the *Titanic*

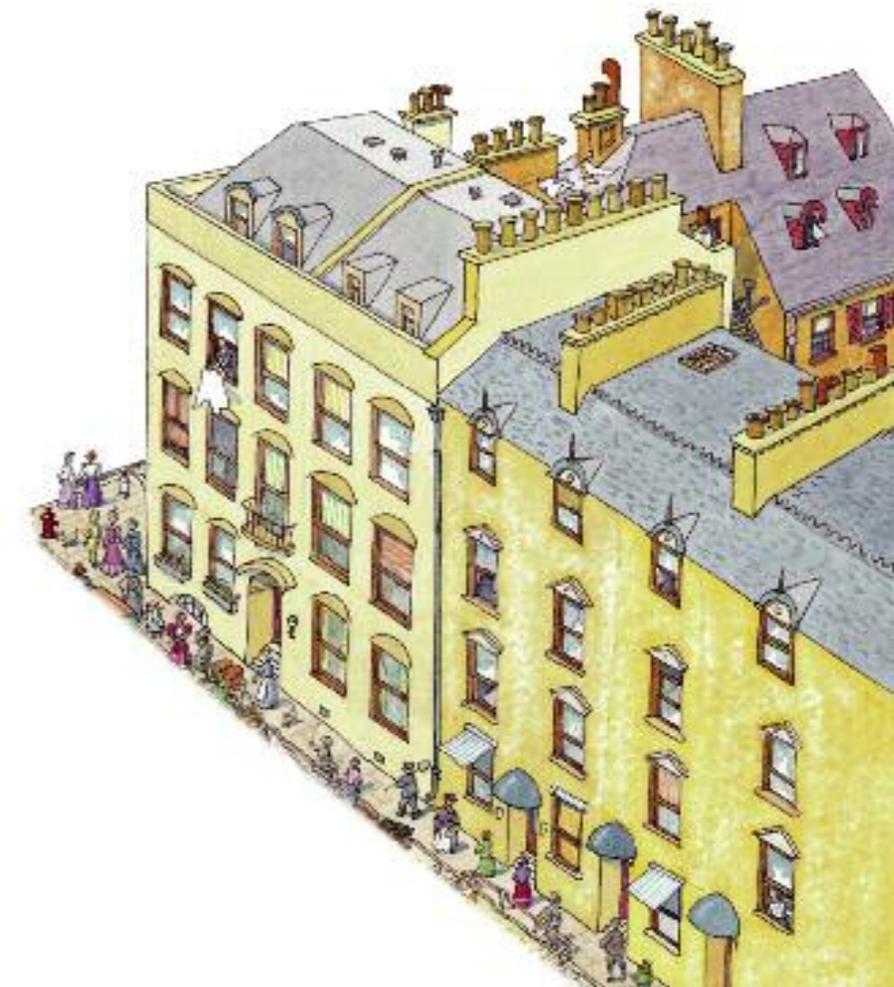


on its fateful voyage. The illustrator has taken the walls off some of the buildings and ships to let you have a look inside them. You can see the Roman baths, the Great Hall of a castle, the lower decks of a galleon and many other fascinating places.



Take a look in the index for a list of all the things there are to discover in this book.

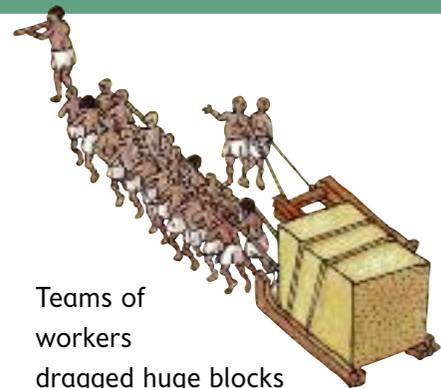
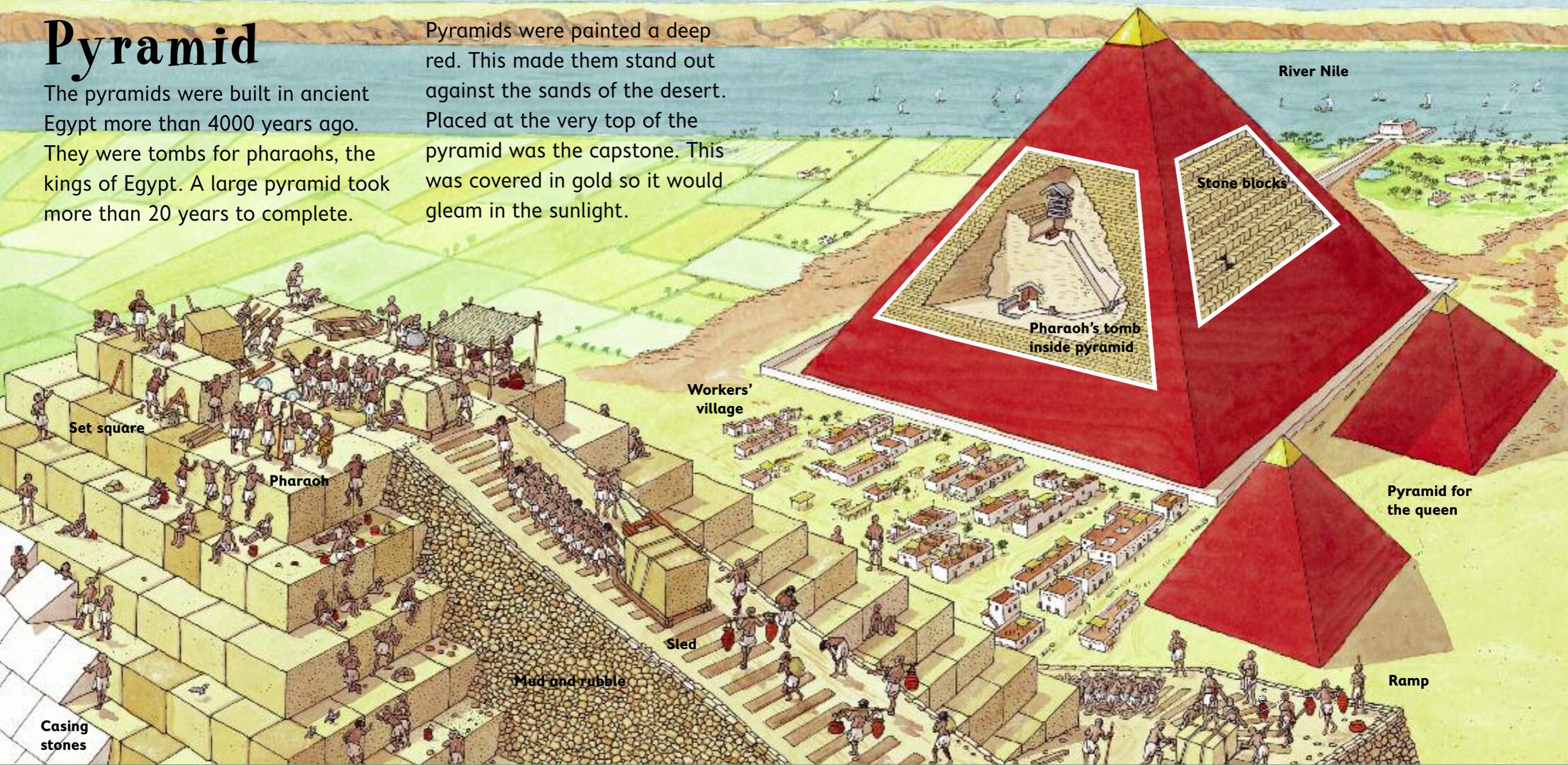
Look out for the boy with the sword. He is hidden in each scene ...



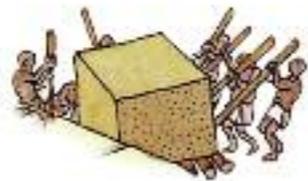
Pyramid

The pyramids were built in ancient Egypt more than 4000 years ago. They were tombs for pharaohs, the kings of Egypt. A large pyramid took more than 20 years to complete.

Pyramids were painted a deep red. This made them stand out against the sands of the desert. Placed at the very top of the pyramid was the capstone. This was covered in gold so it would gleam in the sunlight.

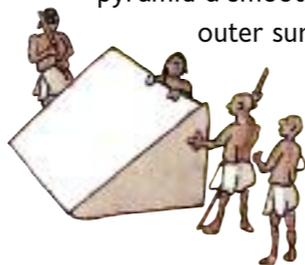


Teams of workers dragged huge blocks of stone on sleds up a steep ramp. The ramp, built of rubble, spiralled up the pyramid's sides.

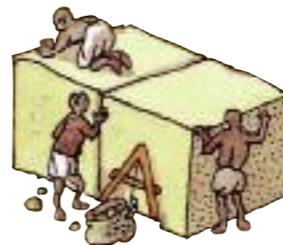


Using wooden poles, the workers carefully levered the heavy blocks of stone off the sleds and into exactly the right position on the pyramid.

Casing stones made out of fine limestone were placed on the outside edges. This gave the pyramid a smooth outer surface.

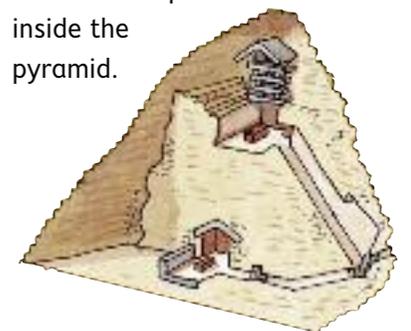


The workers used set squares to make sure all the stones were straight and level. They then used chisels to chip away the edges so they slotted together perfectly.



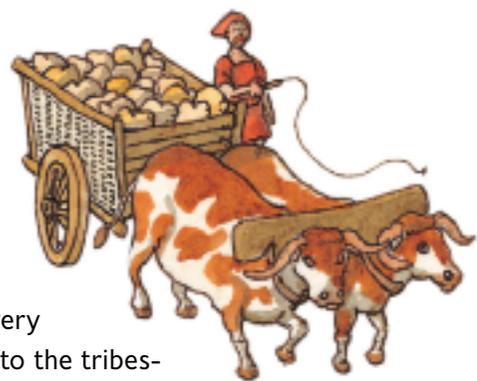
The pharaoh employed a huge workforce for the task. It consisted of as many as 100,000 men. The workers received lodging and food in return for their work.

The pharaoh's body was to rest in a stone coffin called a sarcophagus, placed in a chamber deep inside the pyramid.



Hillfort

Hundreds of years ago, people lived inside forts. Surrounded by a timber fence, forts were built on the tops of hills. This made them hard to attack. Outside was a ditch and a rampart, a protective ridge of soil and rocks. Inside, round houses were built with frames made of branches and walls of mud or stone. Roofs were built from bundles of reeds, called thatch.



Cattle were very useful to the tribespeople. They provided them with milk, meat and hides. Oxen were bred to pull carts carrying heavy loads.

All the boys were trained to be warriors to defend their tribe. The tribespeople were skilled metalworkers. They made metal shields and spears.



The women prepared and cooked meals over open fires inside the fort buildings. The smoke escaped through gaps in the thatch roofs.



The watch tower was built over the gateway. This was the most strongly defended part of the fort. Guards could hurl spears down on attackers from behind fences.



Every hillfort tribe had a leader or chieftain. He led his warriors into battle against other tribes. He lived in the finest house in the fort.



Safe inside their hillfort, the tribespeople led simple lives. They tended their animals, grew crops, ground corn, chopped wood and wove cloth.



Romans

Roman towns were busy places protected by thick walls. They had straight, grid-like streets and a large central square, called a forum. This was both a place to meet and a marketplace. People also met in baths.



Roman army commanders travelled around in chariots like this one. The Roman army conquered a vast empire. It included most of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.



For entertainment, Romans visited the amphitheatre. Here they could watch gladiators fight. Gladiators were slaves or prisoners. They sometimes fought animals.

Wealthy Romans lived in large houses called villas with many rooms. They could relax in the gardens or enjoy meals lying on couches. Some had private baths.



A Roman soldier was called a legionary. He wore an iron helmet and body armour over a woollen tunic. He had to carry his own sword, dagger, shield, spear and all his provisions.

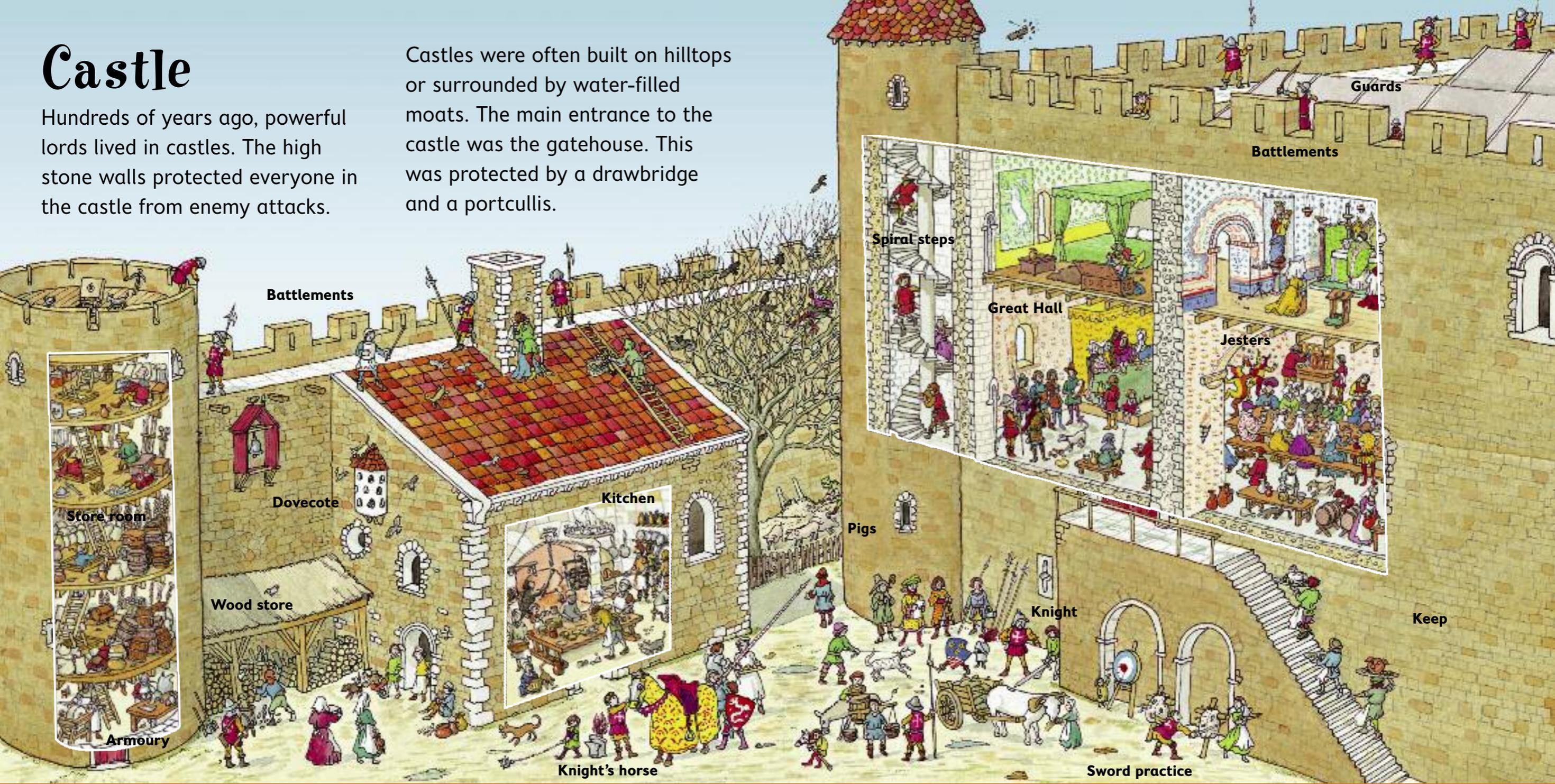
Ordinary Roman townspeople lived in apartments. They did not have kitchens, so they bought cooked food from shops or market stalls.



Castle

Hundreds of years ago, powerful lords lived in castles. The high stone walls protected everyone in the castle from enemy attacks.

Castles were often built on hilltops or surrounded by water-filled moats. The main entrance to the castle was the gatehouse. This was protected by a drawbridge and a portcullis.



In the Great Hall, the lord conducted business, received visitors and held feasts. The lord and lady would eat from golden plates at the high table with their special guests. Less important guests sat on lower tables.



Stores of food and drink were important when the castle was under siege. The more supplies a castle had, the longer it could hold out.



Young boys had to go through years of training to become a knight. At the age of 15 they became a squire. They learnt how to fight and could ride into battle with their master.

Cooks prepared food for the lord and his guests in the kitchen. Huge joints of meat, including wild boar or venison, were cooked on a spit. The kitchen was very busy at feast times.



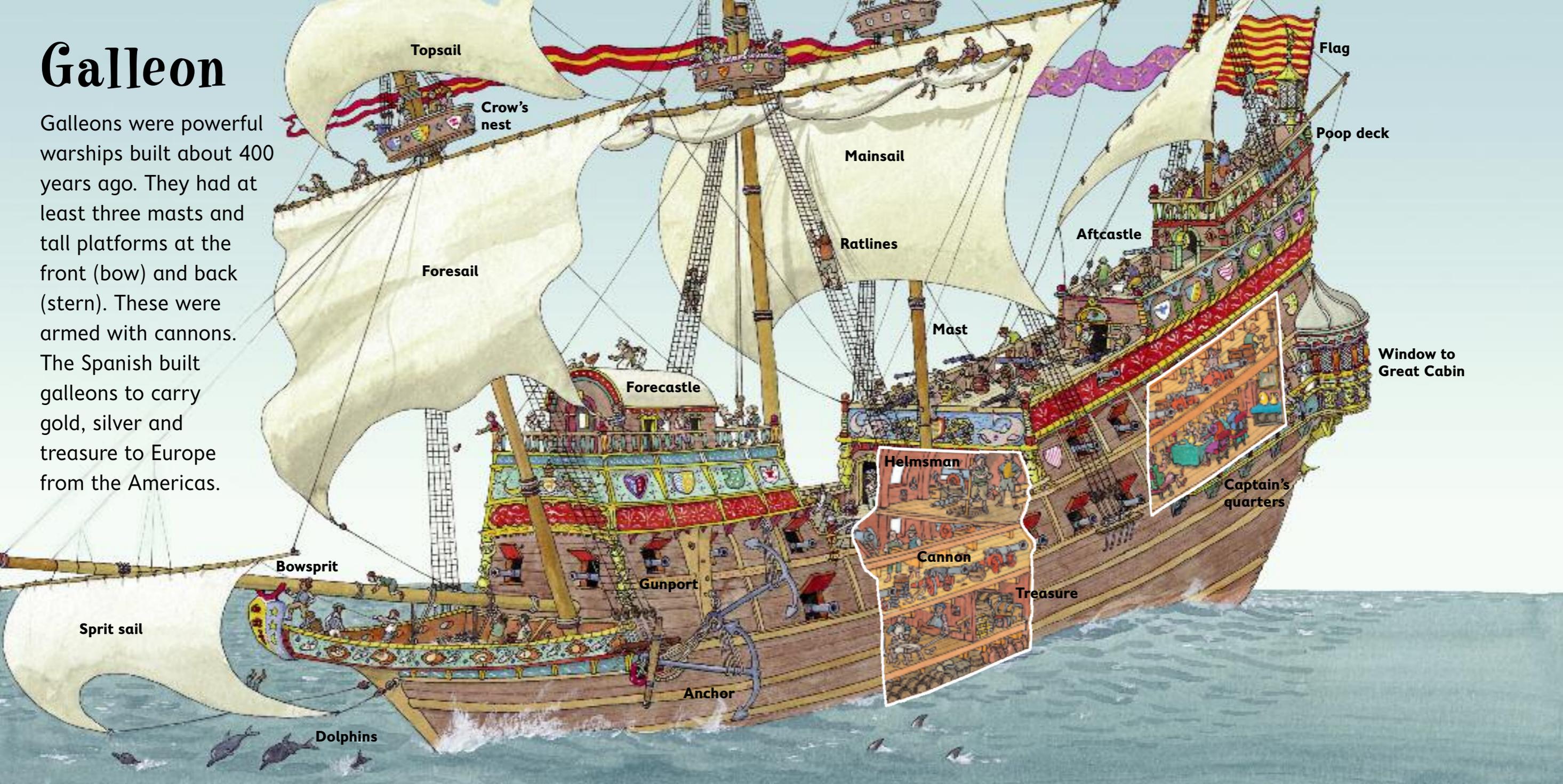
A knight carried a sword and a shield into battle. When taking part in a tournament, he wielded a lance, a long pole which was used to topple his opponent from his horse.



The castle's spiral staircase wound upwards in a clockwise direction. This gave the advantage to a swordsman defending the castle. Wielding the sword in his right hand, he could strike at an attacker standing lower on the stairs.

Galleon

Galleons were powerful warships built about 400 years ago. They had at least three masts and tall platforms at the front (bow) and back (stern). These were armed with cannons. The Spanish built galleons to carry gold, silver and treasure to Europe from the Americas.

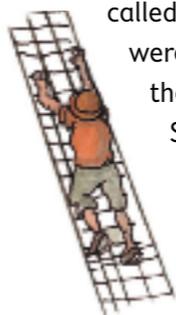


A lantern was fixed to the stern of the galleon on the poop deck, the highest deck on the ship. The captain slept here in the Great Cabin. His rich passengers might stroll on this deck on a long voyage. The railings of the poop deck were called gunwales.

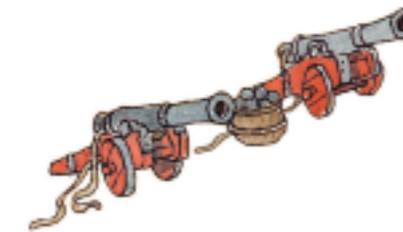
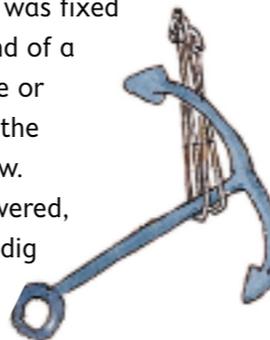


The crow's nest was a platform fixed high up the mast. From here, a look-out kept watch for pirates. The galleon was slow and easily attacked by faster pirate ships.

The ropes and chains that supported the ship's masts and sails were known as the rigging. Rope ladders called ratlines were fixed to these lines. Sailors used these to climb up to the sails.



The anchor was a large, heavy metal hook used to keep the galleon in one place in shallow water. It was fixed to the end of a long rope or chain at the ship's bow. Once lowered, it would dig into the seabed.



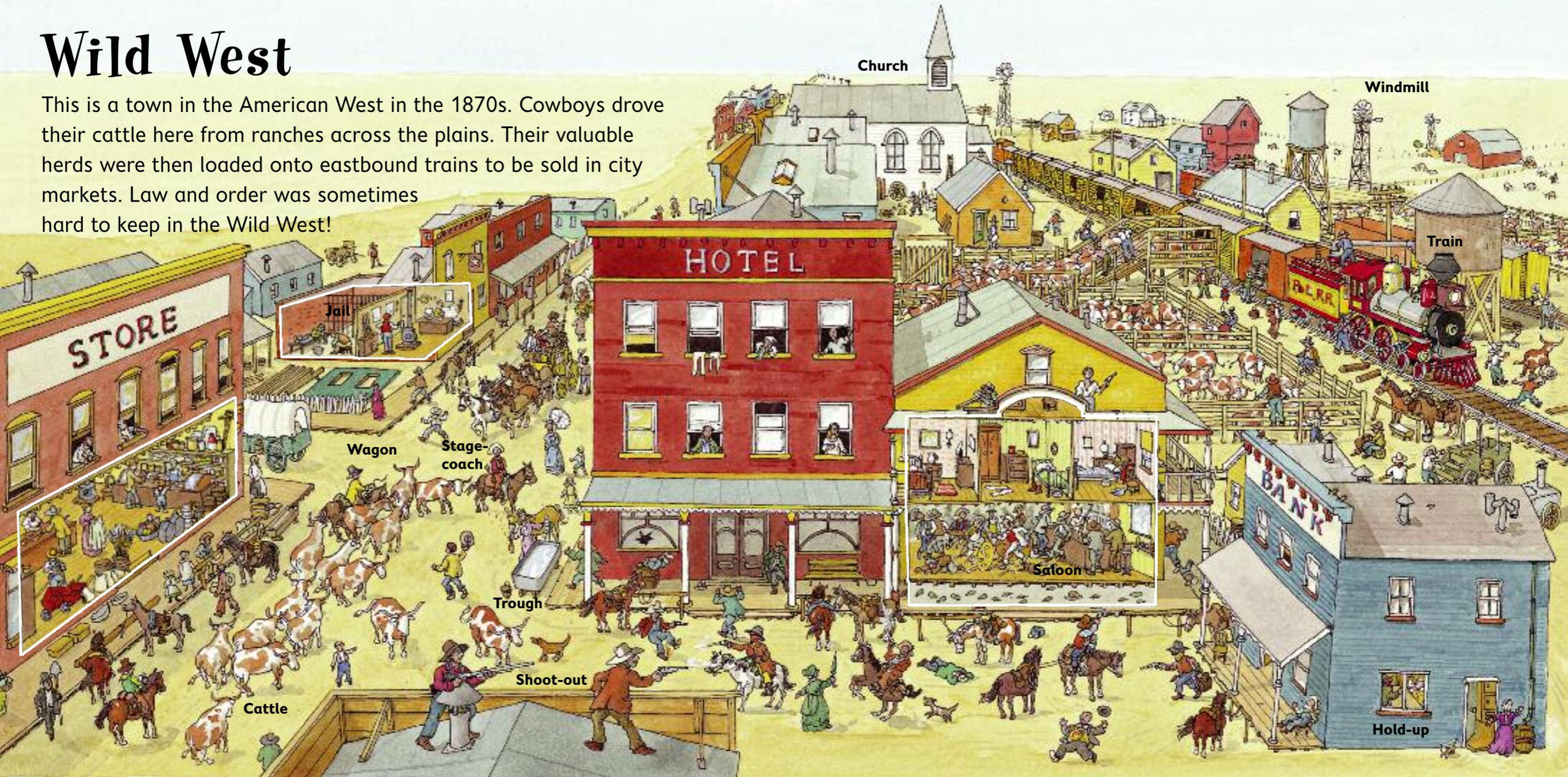
A galleon was armed with cannon. These were guns fixed to wheeled carriages. They could be rolled back, loaded with gunpowder and shot. They fired through gunports in the side of the ship.

The galleon's sails were attached to yards. These were poles fixed across the masts. To slow the ship down or to keep the sails from being ripped apart in high winds, sailors furled (gathered) them in using ropes called clewlines.

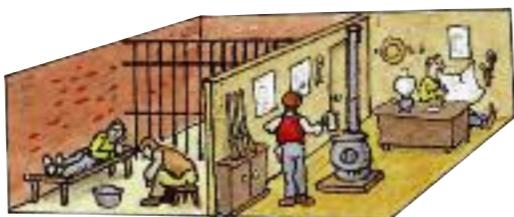


Wild West

This is a town in the American West in the 1870s. Cowboys drove their cattle here from ranches across the plains. Their valuable herds were then loaded onto eastbound trains to be sold in city markets. Law and order was sometimes hard to keep in the Wild West!



Cowboys would visit the local saloon bar for a drink. Trouble often followed. Fights would break out and cowboys were always ready to reach for their guns. The sheriff would try to restore order.



A sheriff was a law officer, like a policeman, appointed by a county. He made sure that the townspeople did not break any rules. He also dealt with crimes such as fights and thefts.

Townspeople shopped for basic supplies at the dry goods store. Tools and medicine, amongst other things, were sold here. Fresh meat was available at the butcher's shop.



Cattle were driven into town by cowboys on horse-back. They were valuable livestock often targeted by robbers known as cattle rustlers.

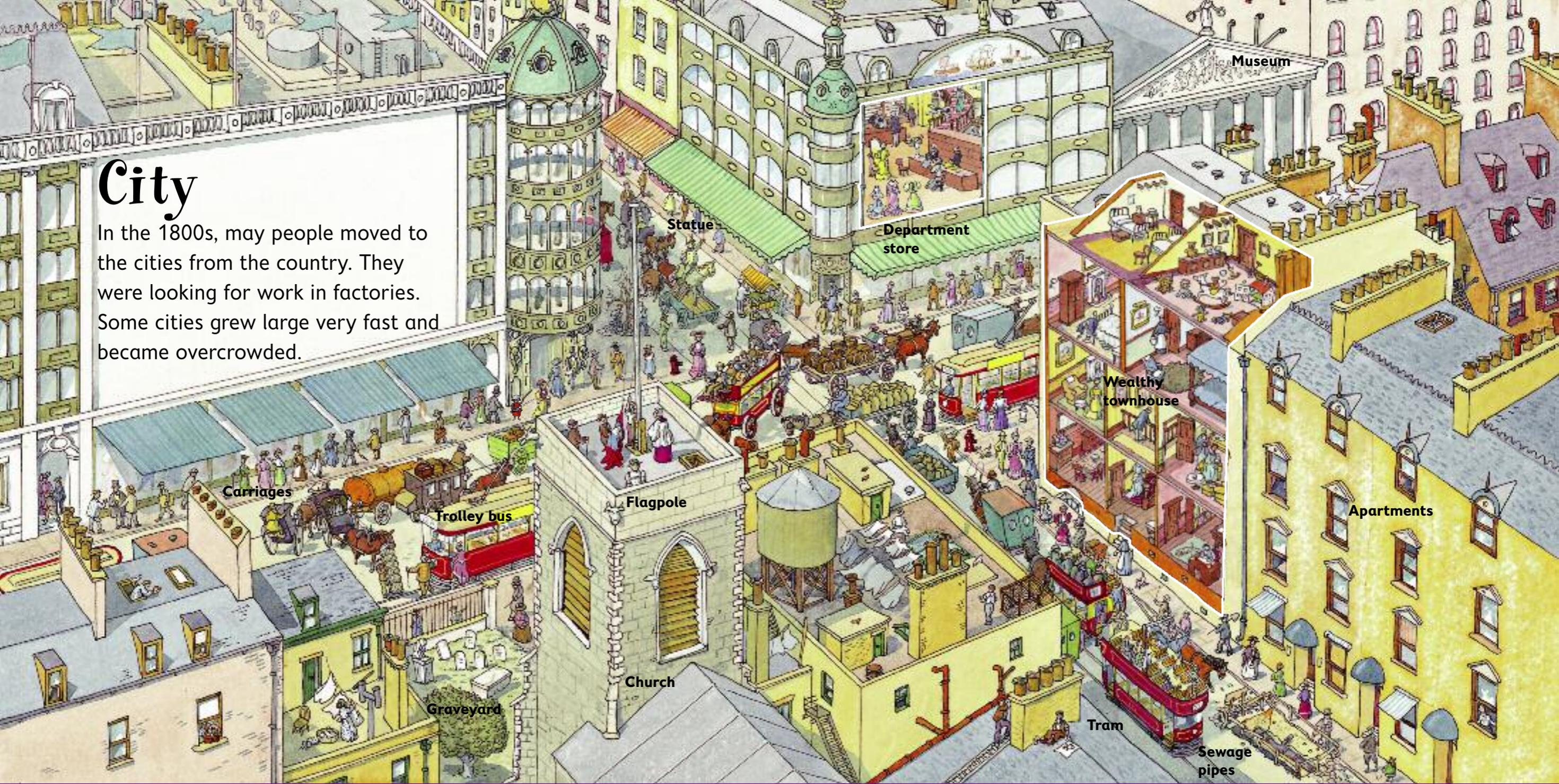
Stagecoaches travelled the dusty roads of the American West. They took people across the plains and from town to town. Passengers were always at risk from an ambush by outlaws.



Remote towns in the Wild West often attracted outlaws, too. Outlaws led a life of crime, not only stealing cattle and robbing travellers, but also holding up banks or trains for valuables.

City

In the 1800s, many people moved to the cities from the country. They were looking for work in factories. Some cities grew large very fast and became overcrowded.



Sewage and water pipes ran beneath city streets. These helped to make cities cleaner places—they were far better than open drains.

Trams are buses that run on rails laid in the road. Electric trams replaced horse-drawn ones. Overhead electricity cables provide the power.



The narrow, cobble streets of a 19th-century city were crowded with people. The poor lived in cramped, decaying houses known as slums, while better-off people lived in fine houses.

Wealthy people employed servants to clean and cook for them. Their children would be cared for by nannies. Their houses had bathrooms, a luxury in those days.



Most of the vehicles in town were drawn by horses. Heavy carts were used to transport goods, such as barrels of beer. People travelled by carriages or by hansom cab.

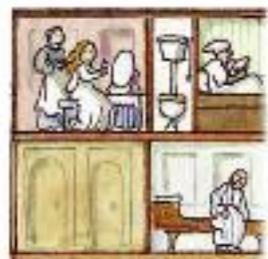
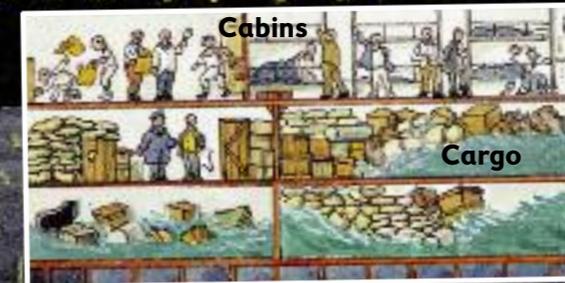
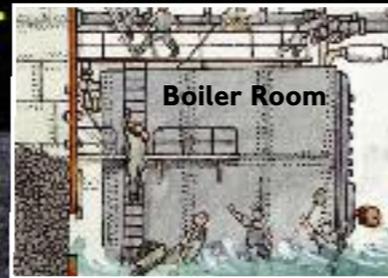
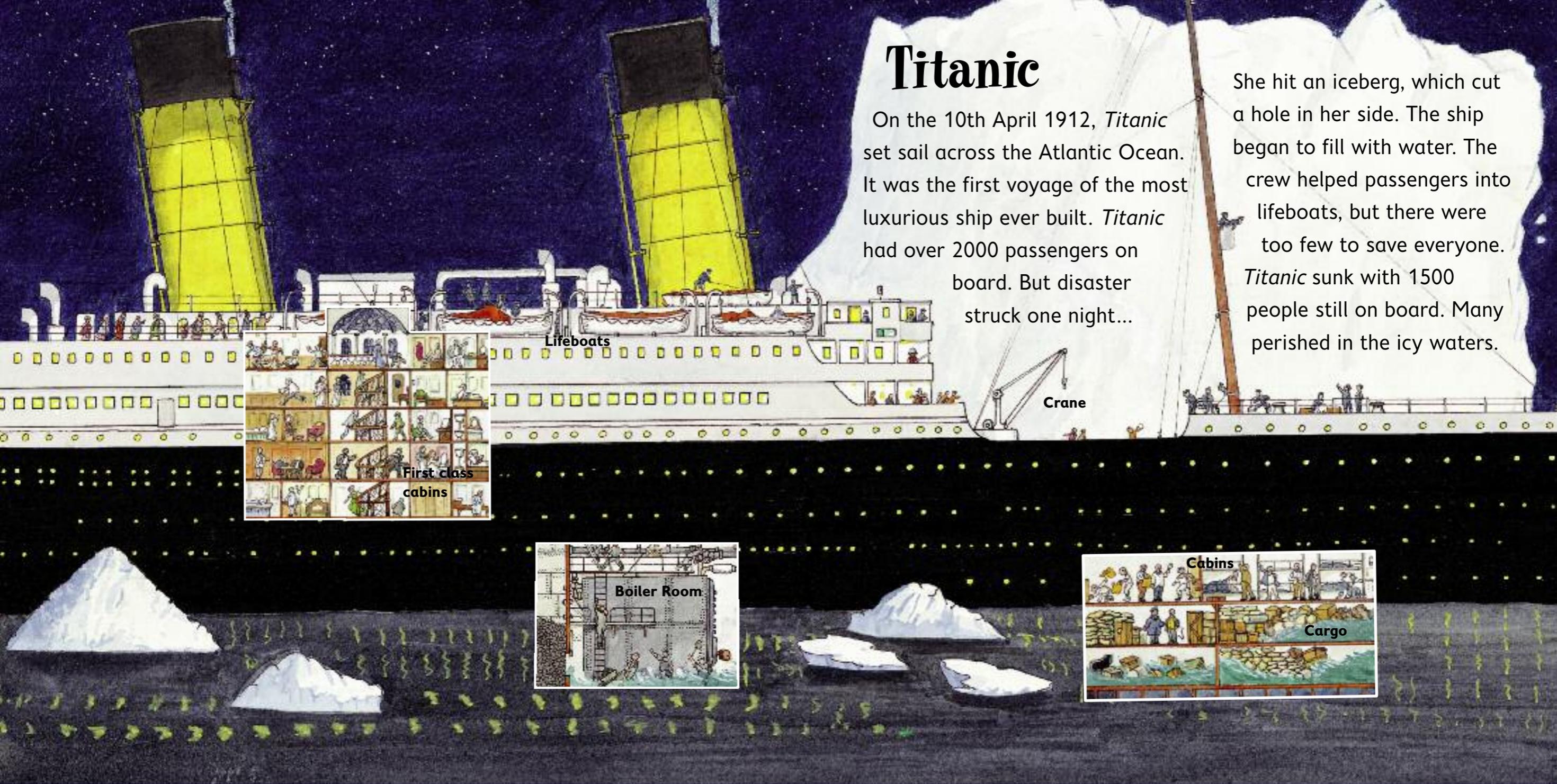
Wealthy people visited department stores to buy expensive clothes. These large shops sold a wide range of goods, such as furniture and toys, all under one roof.



Titanic

On the 10th April 1912, *Titanic* set sail across the Atlantic Ocean. It was the first voyage of the most luxurious ship ever built. *Titanic* had over 2000 passengers on board. But disaster struck one night...

She hit an iceberg, which cut a hole in her side. The ship began to fill with water. The crew helped passengers into lifeboats, but there were too few to save everyone. *Titanic* sunk with 1500 people still on board. Many perished in the icy waters.

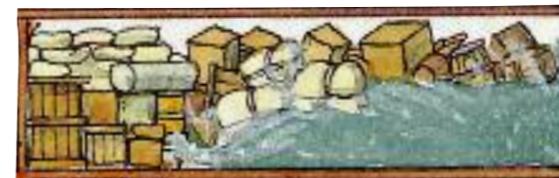


The look-out spotted the iceberg just before midnight, but it was too late. The iceberg struck *Titanic*. Her hull was badly damaged and the ship rapidly began to flood.

Rich passengers travelled first class. They had luxurious rooms with lots of space. Poorer passengers were not allowed here. They slept on the lower decks.

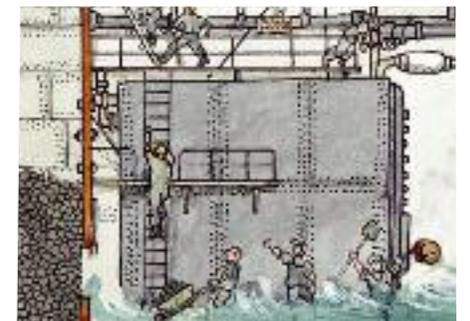


Titanic carried 20 lifeboats. Women and children were the first passengers allowed into the lifeboats. Some people did not believe that they were in danger and refused to get in.

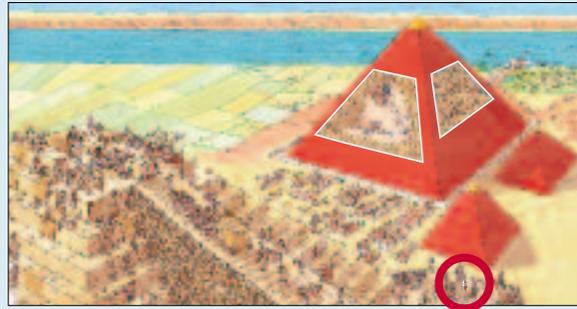


The cargo was stored in the lower part of the ship's hull. It weighed 1400 tons. These areas of the ship were the first to flood. The crew were sleeping on the lower decks. They tried to escape to the upper decks but the water was coming up fast...

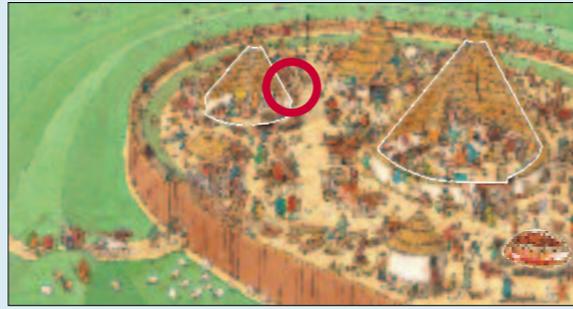
The boiler rooms were also deep in the hull of the ship, and flooded soon after *Titanic* struck the iceberg. The crew had to keep the pumps and lighting going for as long as possible. When the order came to abandon ship, it was too late for many of the crew to climb out and escape.



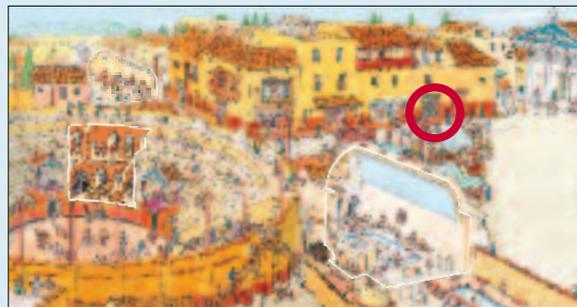
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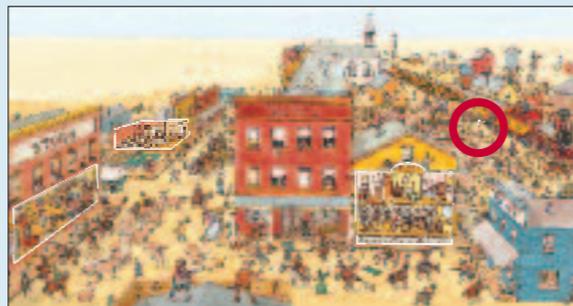
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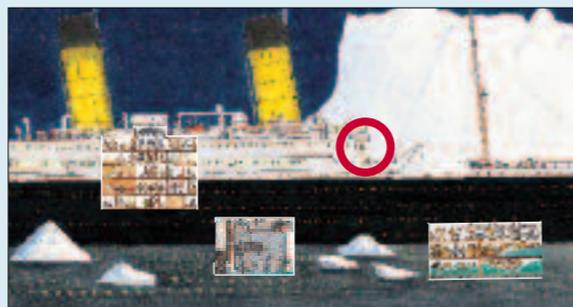
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