TIME FOR KIDS

FEARLESS! STUNT PEOPLE



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For teachers' inspection ONLY

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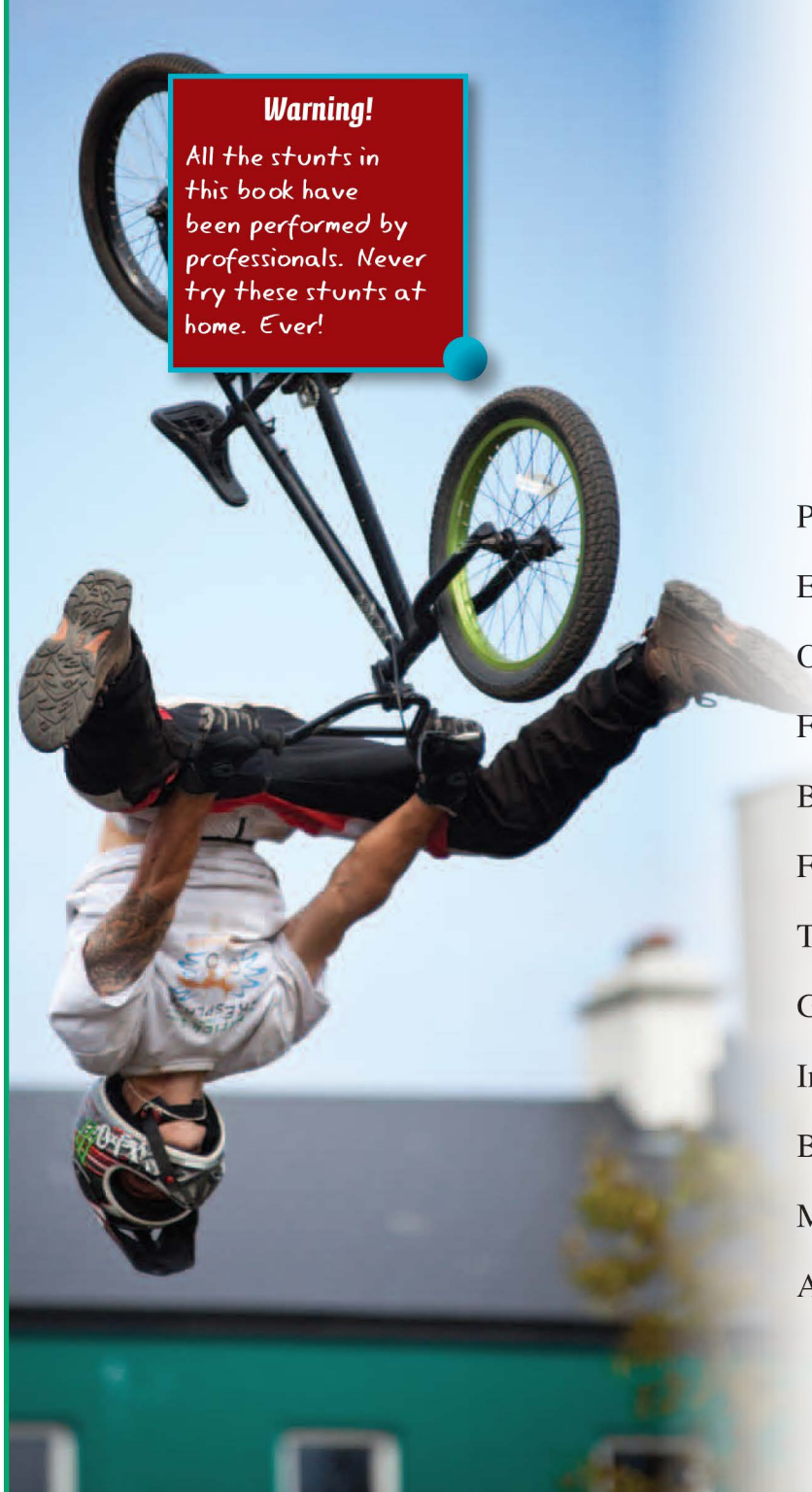


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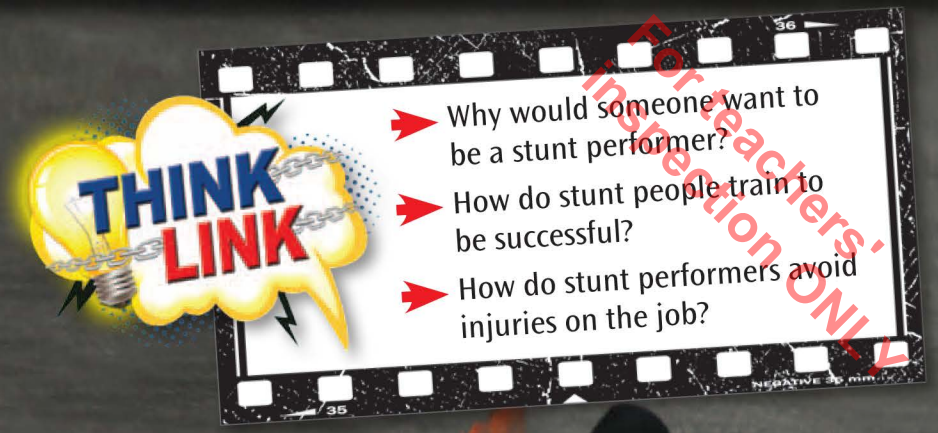
PULLING STUNTS

An army of warriors runs across a patch of jungle. They dodge small explosions and flying spears. Their leader swings on a long vine over their heads. With a kick to the head, the enemy is down. The director yells, "Cut!"

The working conditions for stunt people range from uncomfortable to dangerous. Very little about this career is a safe bet. But that doesn't bother those who do it. Stunt work is for people who enjoy activity and seek challenges. This job is unique, exciting, and filled with adventure.

The stunt community is also a social bunch. These highly talented people challenge one another to create extreme effects. But every day, they keep it safe and professional.



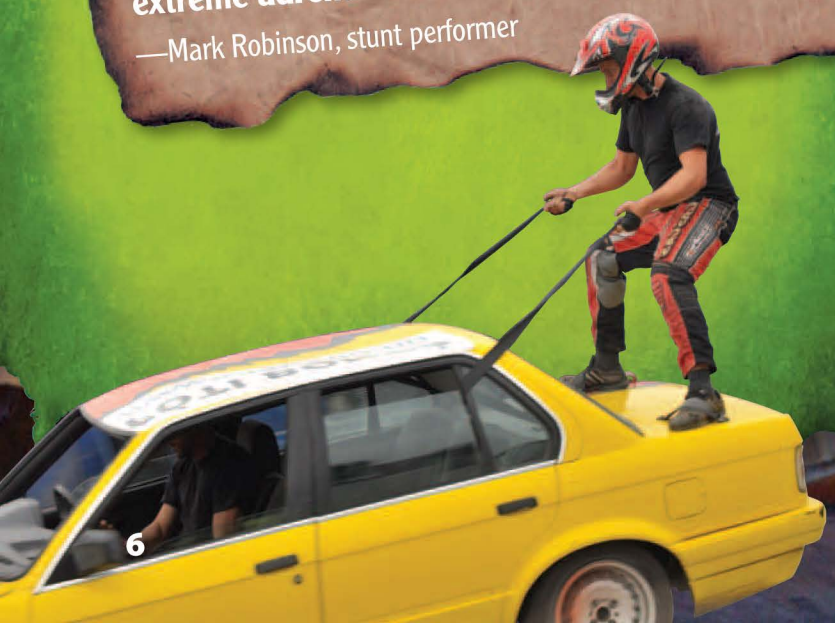


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Stunt performers train to survive action that would kill normal men and women. They study with experts and attend stunt schools. Students start by learning to fall, faking a fight, and rolling down the stairs. More advanced classes teach students how to look like they're being blown back in an explosion. Others teach the art of driving at high speeds, falling through glass, and surviving a fire. The students' training lets them walk away from a burning building or take a blow to the head. Every stunt is designed to be as safe as possible, and teachers show students how to calculate risks.

"A day at work normally involves 10 to 11 hours of extreme boredom followed by 60 seconds of extreme adrenaline rush."

—Mark Robinson, stunt performer



Personality Profile

Stunt performers tend to be the people who tore up their backyards as kids. They often did **martial arts** or other contact sports. This challenging work requires intelligence, courage, and plenty of practice. It's the opposite of a desk job, and that's just the way successful stunt performers want it. Do you have what it takes?

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Can you plan for risks?

Are you a team player?

Are you coordinated?

Are you physically strong?

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EARLY STUNT WORK

The pioneers of stunt work were pure **daredevils**. Some even lost their lives for fame. In the early 1900s, **aviation** was a new field. Pilots traveled across the country, selling rides in their airplanes. They were called *barnstormers* because they set up shop in farm fields.

The most popular fliers, such as Ormer Locklear, did daring tricks. Locklear was called the King of the Wing Walkers because he walked on the wings of his moving plane. Then, Hollywood came calling. In 1919, he was the first person to be filmed moving from a car to a plane while both were in motion. The next year, he died in a crash scene.

In 1920, pioneer stunt performer Ormer Locklear stood on top of a plane flying 90 miles per hour.

That's the Ticket

Circuses have always featured stunt people in their acts. When movie directors wanted to show something daring, such as someone flying high on a rope, circuses supplied people with the right training.



Variety of Skills

Vaudeville was a form of entertainment popular in the late 1880s to early 1900s. The shows included magicians, animal trainers, dancers, and **acrobats**. As movies gained popularity, the vaudeville shows died out. But many performers found their way to Hollywood—and to stunt work.