

B4U PUBLISHING



The Story of the CAR

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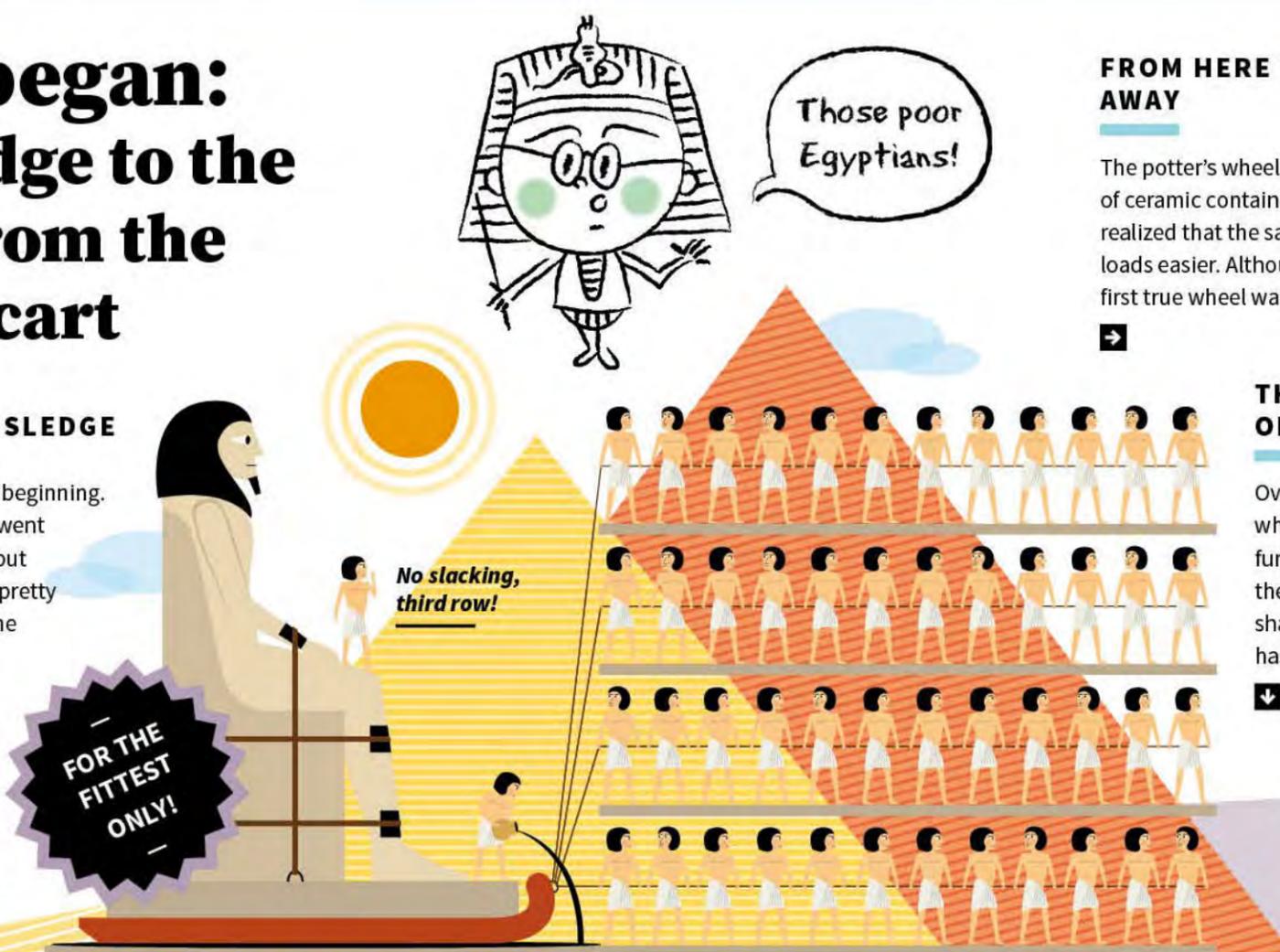


How it all began: From the sledge to the wheel, and from the wheel to the cart

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE SLEDGE

It may seem to us that the wheel was at the beginning. In actual fact, however, thousands of years went by before people came up with this simple but ingenious invention. Meanwhile they had a pretty tiring time of things. In the beginning was the sledge.

People have needed to carry heavy loads since ancient times, and they have always done everything possible to make the job easier. The ancient Egyptians invented the sledge, which was harnessed to lots of people. They poured water under the sledge's runners in order to reduce friction, so making it easier to slide a heavy load across the ground.



FROM RUNNERS TO WOODEN ROLLERS

Can you imagine how hard it must have been to pull a load weighing many tons on a sledge? As people are basically lazy and would rather think than work, they came up with the ancestor of the wheel. Cylindrical poles rolled over wooden rails reduced friction considerably, making the handling of loads much easier.



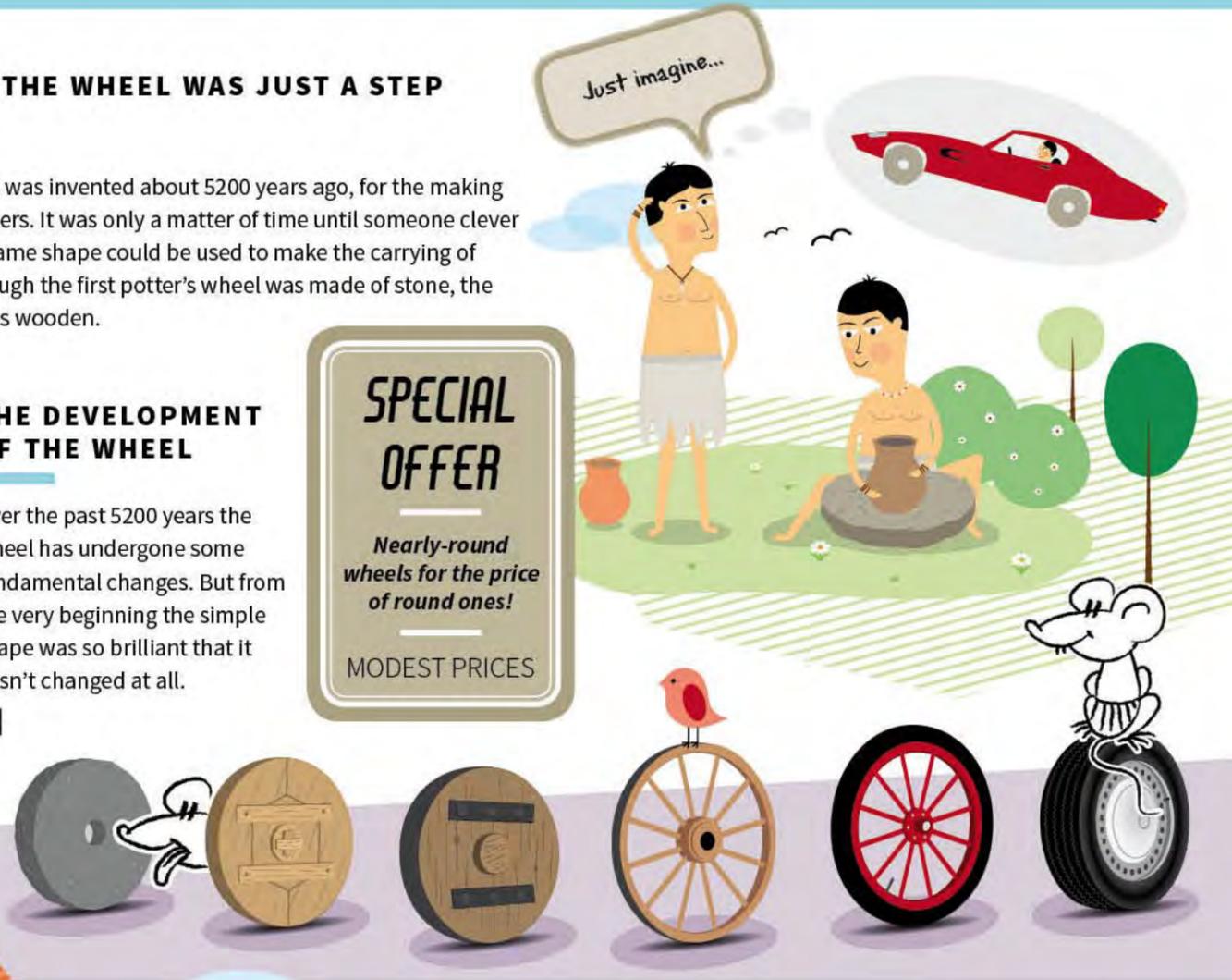
FROM HERE THE WHEEL WAS JUST A STEP AWAY

The potter's wheel was invented about 5200 years ago, for the making of ceramic containers. It was only a matter of time until someone clever realized that the same shape could be used to make the carrying of loads easier. Although the first potter's wheel was made of stone, the first true wheel was wooden.



THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHEEL

Over the past 5200 years the wheel has undergone some fundamental changes. But from the very beginning the simple shape was so brilliant that it hasn't changed at all.



THE FIRST CART

Once the wheel had seen the light of day, it was enough to attach it to something that resembled the carts we know today. The ancient Sumerians of Mesopotamia, which was on the territory of today's Iraq, went to war in chariots that looked like this.



Automobile revolution

The internal combustion engine started a revolution in motoring. Although it didn't look like the one I showed you on the last page straight away, it was enough to get car designers to step hard on the gas pedal.

THE FIRST AUTOMOBILE HAD THREE WHEELS

You thought that three-wheelers have always been just for children, didn't you? You're wrong. In 1886 Karl Benz patented the first automobile with an internal combustion engine. Originally designed as a three-wheeler, it soon went into production.



THE COMPETITION HAD FOUR WHEELS

Another engineer who put an internal combustion engine in his car was Gottlieb Daimler, who was a German, too. Although Daimler's vehicle had four wheels, at first it was just a light carriage supplemented with an internal combustion engine.



BENZ VELO

Four wheels are four wheels. Karl Benz wasted no time in setting up the mass production of his four-wheeler, and he managed to sell 1,200 of them. Obviously people had overcome their mistrust of the automobile and were starting to take it seriously.



TATRA PRÄSIDENT

The first cars were all pretty similar, as they copied the appearance of the carriage, the most widespread means of transport of the time. The simple difference was an engine instead of horses. This automobile is the well-known Czech Tatra.



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THE EARLY DAYS OF MOTORING

As you know, new things often meet with mistrust. For many people of that time a vehicle that moved forwards without draught horses was a supernatural phenomenon, and hence they were afraid of it. At first every driver was obliged to provide for a man with a flag to run in front of his moving car. This man would warn the timid of the car's approach. These human runners must have been pretty speedy...



FORD MODEL T

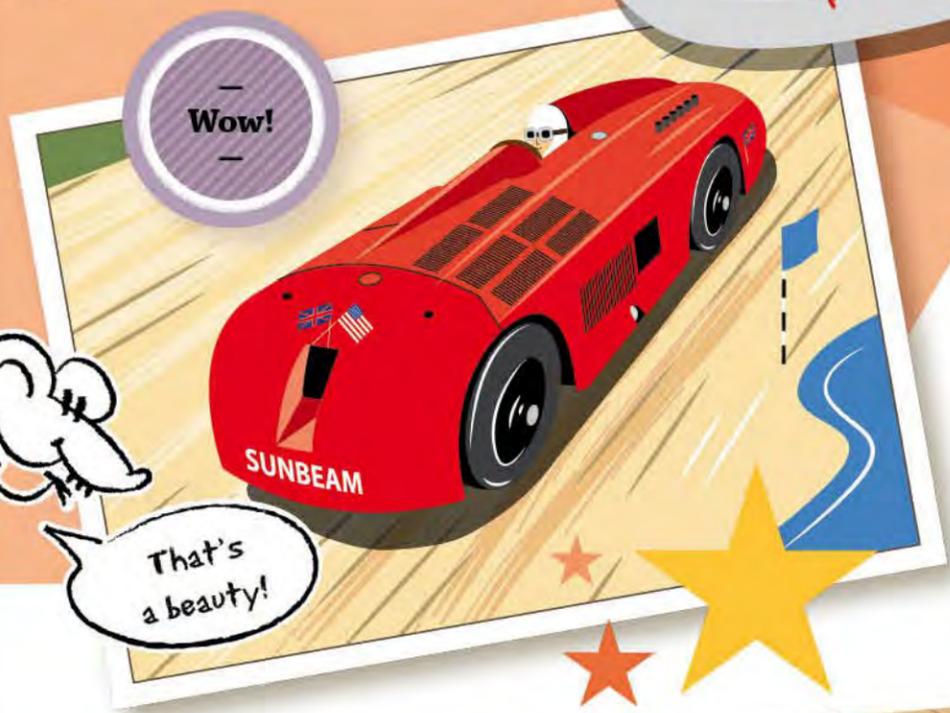
The United States of America was one of the first countries where motoring became widespread on a mass scale. This was largely due to the Ford Model T, the first car produced on an assembly line.



Faster and even faster

SUNBEAM

'Sunbeam' is a fitting name for a car designed to exceed a speed of 200 miles per hour, i.e. 320 km/h. In 1927, with English racer Henry Segrave at the wheel, it reached 328 km/h. Only then did it start to cool down.



A staggering speed!

RAILTON MOBILE SPECIAL

A special speed demands a 'special' name. In 1947 this car, driven by Brit John Cobb, reached a speed of 634 km/h. Phew!



It's like lightning!

GOLDENROD

In 1965 American Bob Summers and his streamliner Goldenrod raised the bar to 658 km/h. By now you may feel that you're going crazy – but believe me, that's not an end to the records.



Lightning & Son present:
SUPER MACHINES

BLUE FLAME

Not only do the records continue, there are loads of them. Everyone wants a place in the history of speed. What's more, another magical threshold was in sight. In 1970 the Blue Flame – a special rocket-powered automobile – reached 1014 km/h and so broke the 1000 km/h barrier. It was driven by American Gary Gabelich.



THRUST SSC

Today the name of driver Andy Green is inextricably linked with speed records. It was he who in 1997 exceeded the speed of sound, which until then had been the exclusive reserve of supersonic aircraft. His special jet-propelled car, designed by British engineers led by Richard Noble, whizzed up to 1227 km/h.



He must be kidding!

★ ★ ★
Predict the top speed!

BLOODHOUND SSC

You might think that everything has to end somewhere and not even speed records can go on being broken forever. Obviously Andy Green had a different idea when he was working on a new car called Bloodhound, whose aim was to exceed 1050 miles per hour, i.e. 1690 km/h.



Cult cars

Things that become so popular that absolutely everyone admires them are known as 'cult' things. There are cult films, cult bands, cult books and, of course, cult cars. Let's take a look at some of them.

ELVIS, EAT YOUR HEART OUT!

These huge American cars consume an awful lot of petrol, take corners with difficulty and have a number of other problems. But what the heck – they're stylish and beautiful. Elvis Presley drove this pink Cadillac.

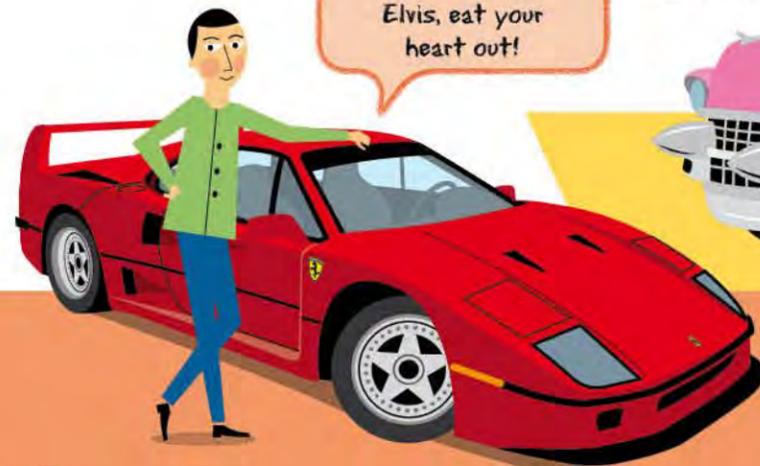


Cadillac



Love me tender, love...

Stars of the 19th century



Ferrari

RED FERRARI

Italian racing driver Enzo Ferrari founded a marque that still produces luxury sports cars. More than three quarters of these cars are sold in red.



ROLLS-ROYCE

This marque has become a symbol of luxury and comfort. If you want one in your garage, it'll cost you at least 6 million Czech crowns.



Rolls-Royce



Beetle

BEETLE

This Volkswagen car, which is world-famous today, went into mass production in 1938. Intended as a 'people's car', the Beetle is so timeless that with minor modifications it is still in production today.



2CV

Although it was known in some countries as the 'Duck' because of its rolling ride, it was an inexpensive and very comfortable car.



Citroën 2CV



PORSCHE

PORSCHE

The Porsche is certainly one of those cars you turn to look at as it whizzes past you on the highway. Although the car is German, its founder Ferdinand Porsche was born in Bohemia.



Shaken, not stirred.



ASTON MARTIN AND 007

Some cars were made famous in films. Do you know which car the agent 007 drives?



ASTON MARTIN



BATMOBILE

BATMOBILE

Talking of films, we must mention this car, which you'll never see on the road.



Mustang



The Story of the CAR

Written by Oldřich Růžička

Illustrated by Tomáš Pernický, Kateřina Makaloušová



„Retro-style book for young readers.“

From the first wheel to F1



Read the story of the automobile, from the invention of the wheel to the most modern racing machines. Five thousand two hundred years ago humankind invented the potter's wheel; this seemingly unrelated invention marks the beginning of something that makes the heart of every boy and many a girl beat a little faster. The first carts, the steam engines that marked the beginning of motoring, the earliest ancestor of the car with the internal combustion engine, plus the modern cars driven by James Bond and Batman – all this awaits you in this lushly illustrated book with unconventional, retro-style graphics.

New Cadillac
Feels like Elvis

Wheeeeeerrr...
Wheerrrrr...



AMERICAN DREAM is HERE



Aston Martin



VW Beetle



Chrysler



ROLLS ROYCE



STANLEY ROCKET RACER

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