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Opening extract from
**Big Book of Big
Machines**

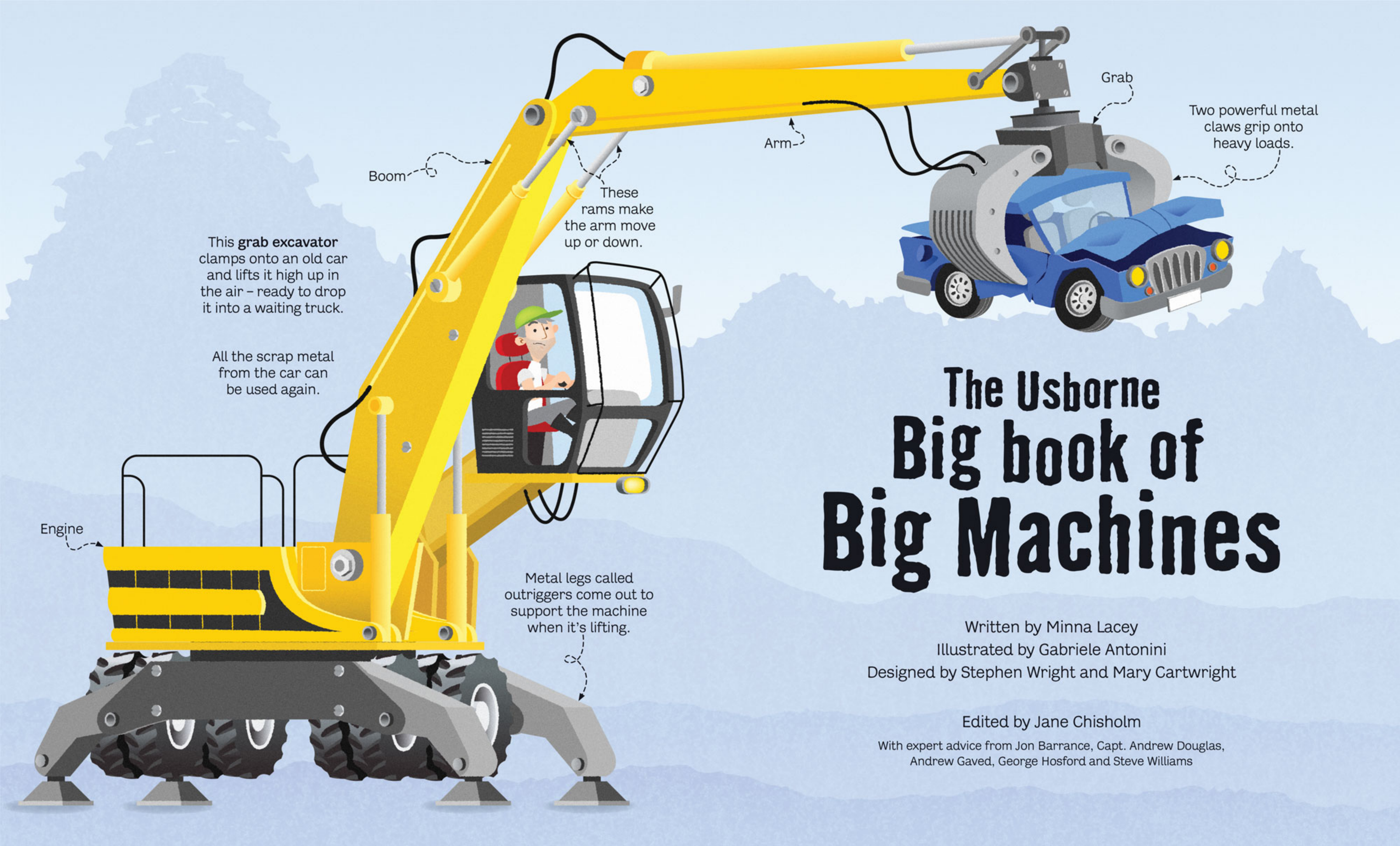
Written by
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This **grab excavator** clamps onto an old car and lifts it high up in the air – ready to drop it into a waiting truck.

All the scrap metal from the car can be used again.

Boom

These rams make the arm move up or down.

Arm

Grab

Two powerful metal claws grip onto heavy loads.

Engine

Metal legs called outriggers come out to support the machine when it's lifting.

The Usborne Big book of Big Machines

Written by Minna Lacey

Illustrated by Gabriele Antonini

Designed by Stephen Wright and Mary Cartwright

Edited by Jane Chisholm

With expert advice from Jon Barrance, Capt. Andrew Douglas,
Andrew Gaved, George Hosford and Steve Williams

Flying machines

The **Antonov An-225** is a MASSIVE cargo plane - the biggest aircraft in the world. It can carry 250,000 kg (550,000 lb) of cargo - that's twice as much as a big passenger plane.

In Russia this plane is called **Mriya**, which means dream.

A de-icing vehicle has a long arm - so it can reach the top of a plane.

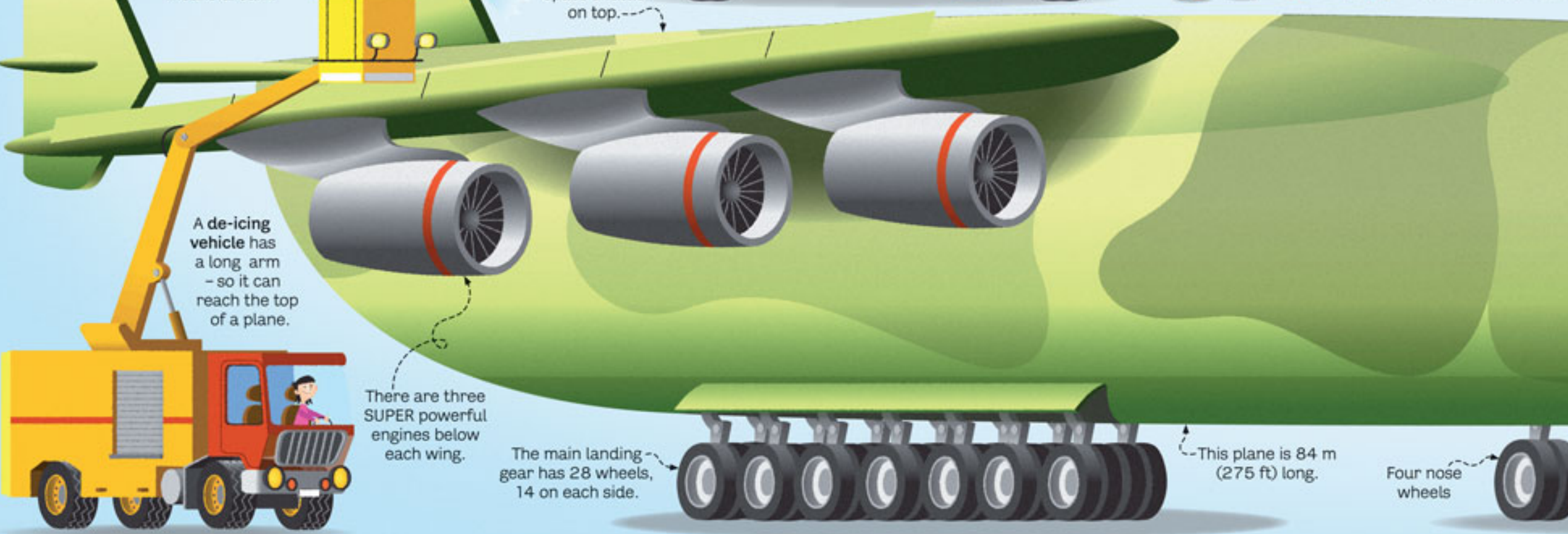


The **Mil Mi-26** is an amazingly powerful helicopter. It can carry a load of 20,000 kg (44,000 lb).

Its body is 34 m (110 ft) long.

The **An-225** can carry a space shuttle on top.

This helicopter is so big, it can fit 100 passengers inside.



There are three SUPER powerful engines below each wing.

The main landing gear has 28 wheels, 14 on each side.

This plane is 84 m (275 ft) long.

Four nose wheels

The nose opens up to let heavy cargo in.

An **Airbus A380** is the BIGGEST passenger airliner. It can carry 853 passengers, 538 on the main deck and 315 on the upper deck.

Cockpit - two pilots sit here.

This plane is called a **SUPERJUMBO**.

Baggage train

Driving up the ramp to enter the plane

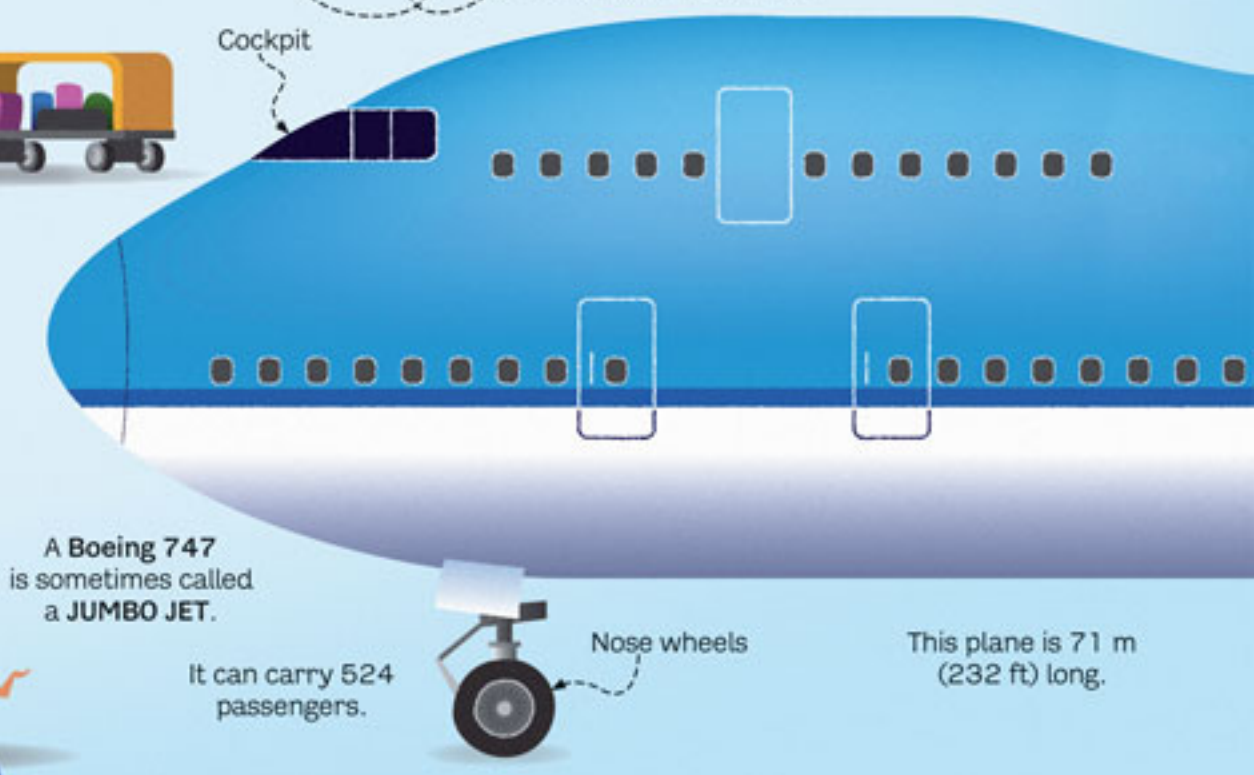


Upper deck

Length - 73m (240 ft)

Main deck

Mobile passenger stairs



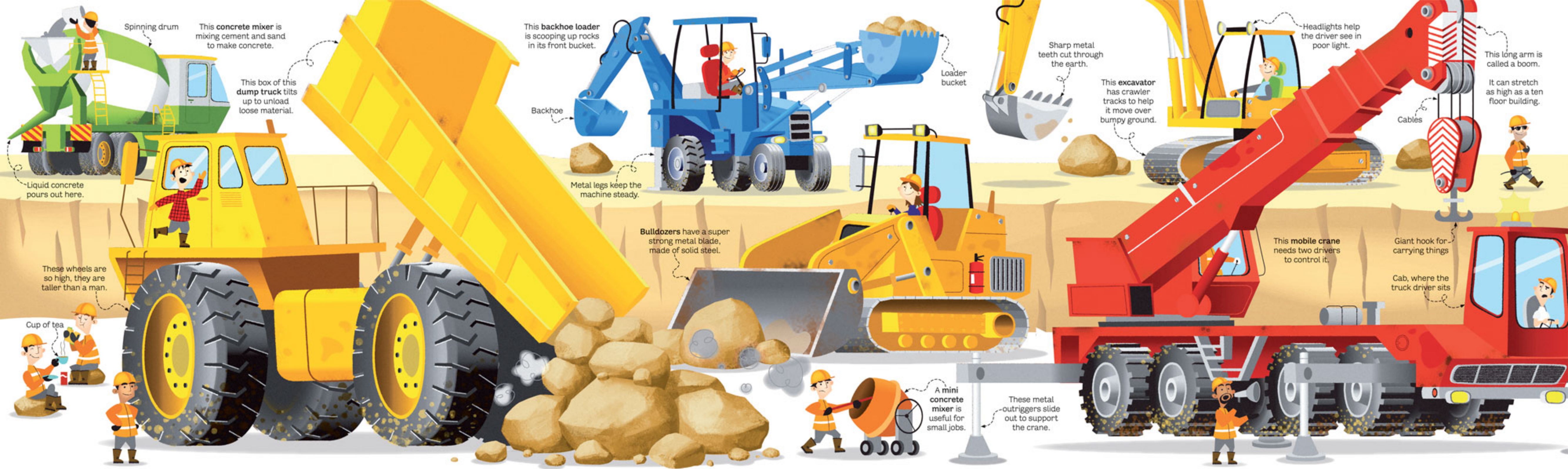
Cockpit

A **Boeing 747** is sometimes called a **JUMBO JET**.

It can carry 524 passengers.

Nose wheels

This plane is 71 m (232 ft) long.



Spinning drum

This concrete mixer is mixing cement and sand to make concrete.

This box of this dump truck tilts up to unload loose material.

Liquid concrete pours out here.

These wheels are so high, they are taller than a man.

Cup of tea

This backhoe loader is scooping up rocks in its front bucket.

Backhoe

Metal legs keep the machine steady.

Bulldozers have a super strong metal blade, made of solid steel.

A mini concrete mixer is useful for small jobs.

These metal outriggers slide out to support the crane.

Sharp metal teeth cut through the earth.

This excavator has crawler tracks to help it move over bumpy ground.

Headlights help the driver see in poor light.

Cables

This long arm is called a boom.

It can stretch as high as a ten floor building.

This mobile crane needs two drivers to control it.

Giant hook for carrying things

Cab, where the truck driver sits