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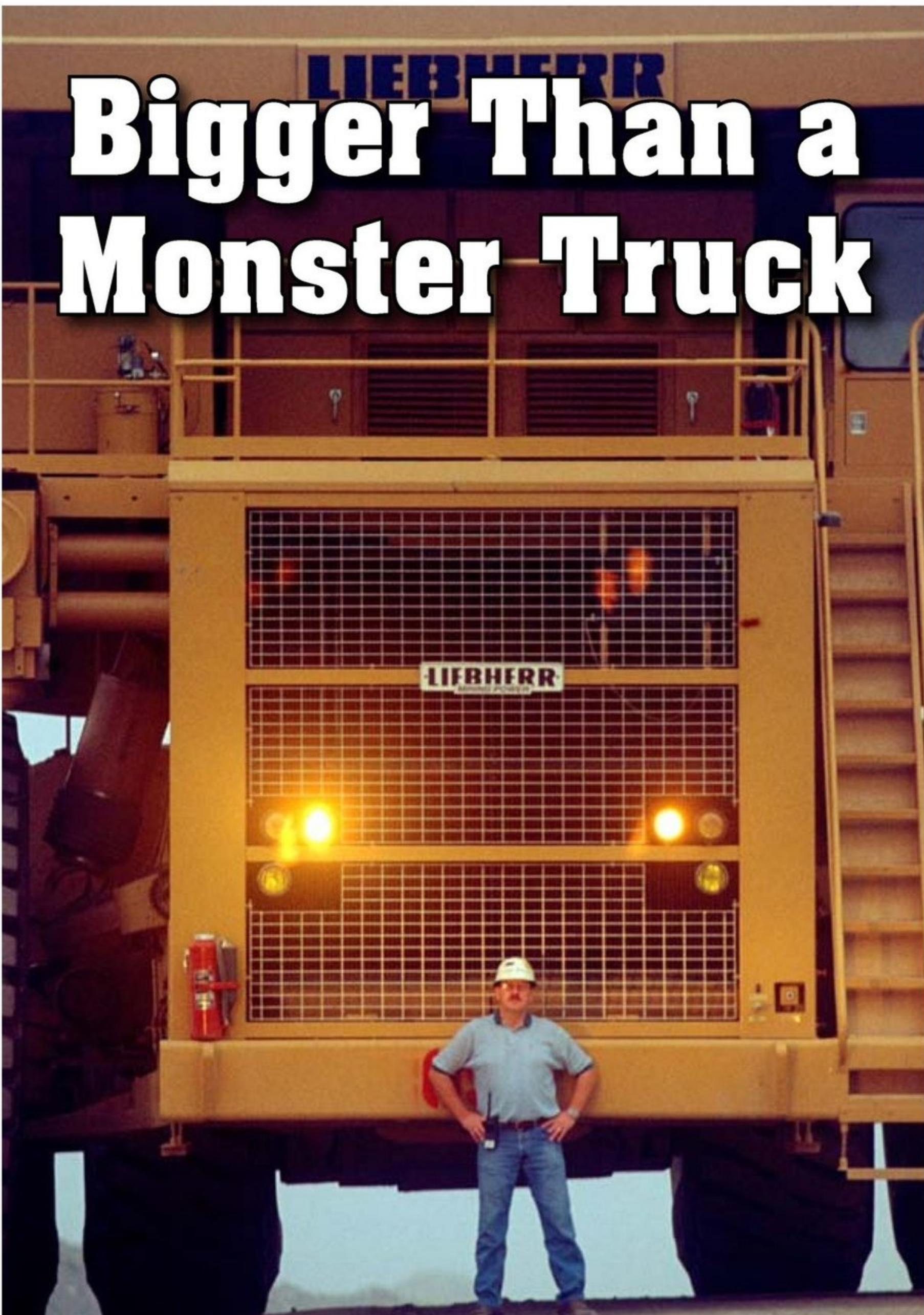
Bigger Than a Monster Truck



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Written by Sarah and Keith Kortemartin

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A monster truck is large enough to crush other cars.

Big Movers

Have you ever seen a monster truck? Monster trucks are big! They aren't the biggest **vehicles**, though. What's even bigger than a monster truck?



This Duck takes people from the sea to the beach.

Vehicles That Move Things and People

The Duck

The “Duck” is a truck that can travel on both land and water. On land, the Duck moves around on six wheels. In water, the Duck floats like a boat. The Duck can carry people to places that are hard to reach.



Soldiers practice using a vehicle bridge.

Vehicle Bridge

This vehicle is a **bridge** that can move. Other vehicles can drive over the bridge. When the bridge is no longer needed, it folds up onto the vehicle.



Heavy cranes are big enough to set up structures.

Cranes

Cranes lift and move heavy things. Some cranes help workers build tall buildings. Others are used to move goods from ships to land.



This dump truck is the largest truck in the world.

Dump Trucks

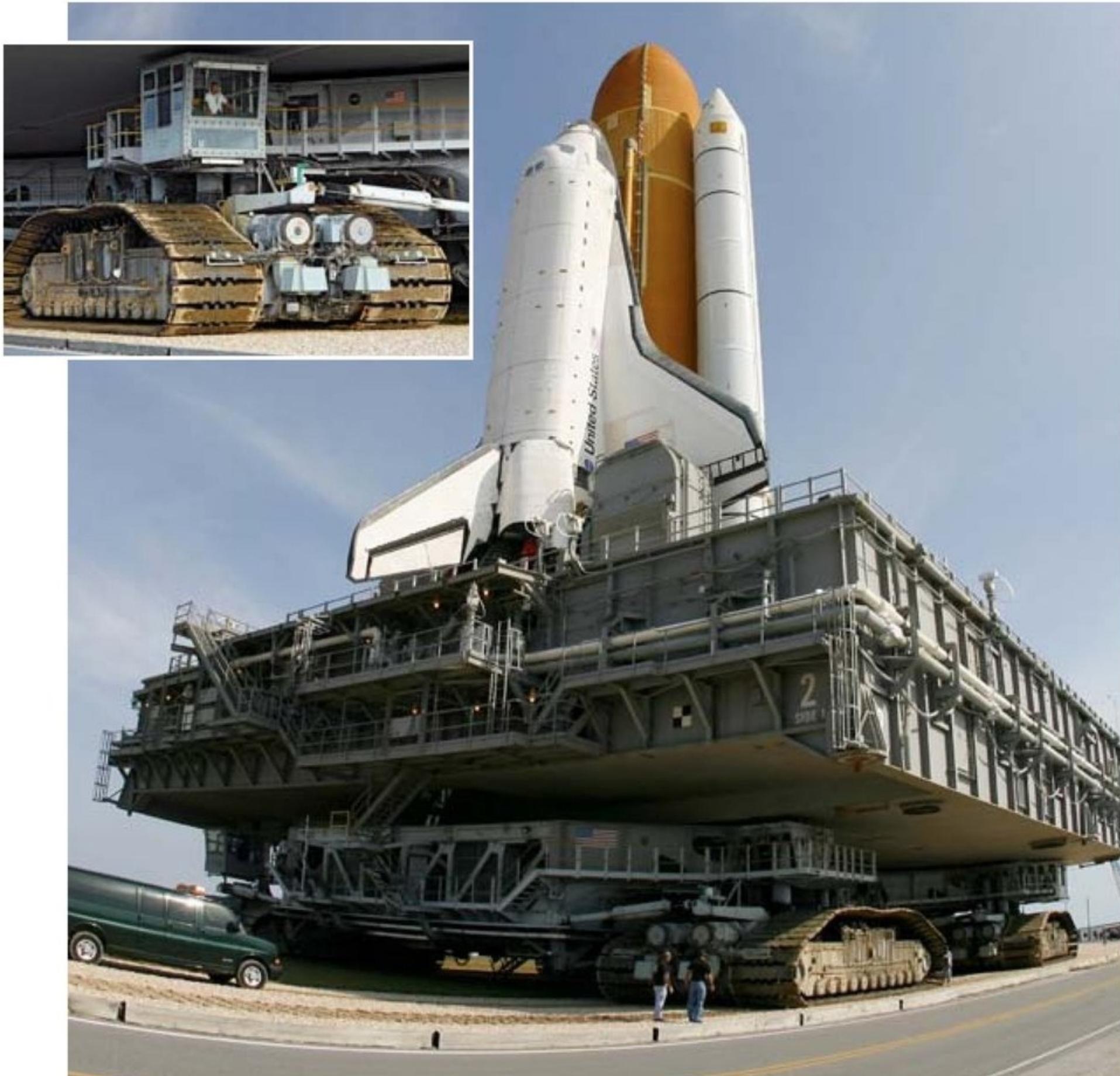
The world's biggest dump trucks are used at **mines**. Miners use these trucks to carry rocks and dirt. The trucks use some of the biggest tires in the world. Their tires are twice as tall as a person.



Overland trains, which are used to pull large loads, have many cars.

Overland Trains

These trains are used to move heavy things to places without roads. The trains move on big wheels instead of on train tracks. Each wheel is taller than a person.



This vehicle moves space shuttles at a top speed of .9 miles per hour (1.4 kph).

Moving Space Vehicles

Some of the world's biggest vehicles were made to move things that go into space. They carry space vehicles on a high **platform**. These vehicles are so wide that they need their own road.

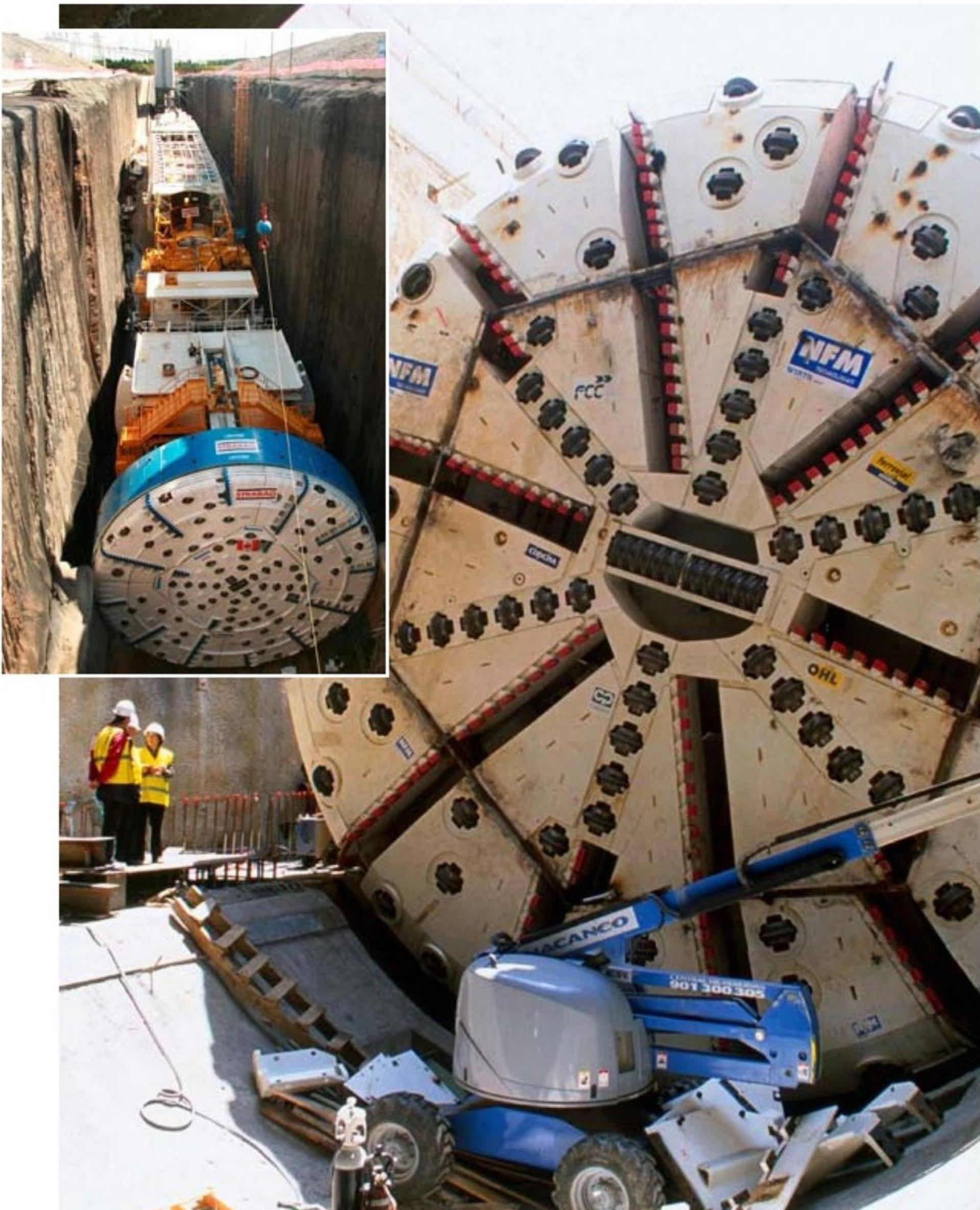


Some giant power shovels load dump trucks full of sand.

Vehicles That Dig

Giant Power Shovels

Miners use giant power shovels to dig rocks and dirt out of a mine. Giant power shovels have a big **bucket** that can break into the earth and scoop it up.



Machines like this one dug a tunnel between England and France.

Tunnel Diggers

These vehicles dig under the surface of the earth. They can even move through solid rock.



The Bagger 288 moves to a new mine.

Bagger 288

The largest vehicle in the world is the Bagger 288. This huge vehicle digs mines. The Bagger 288 is almost as long as two football fields.

Do You Know?

People have built enormous vehicles since ancient times. The Helepolis (heh–LEH-puh-lis) was a huge tower built on wheels. It was used in battles in ancient Greece. The Helepolis was so heavy that more than 3,000 men were needed to move it.

Helepolis





The Bagger 288 weighs 13,500 tons.

It digs with a huge wheel. The wheel has buckets along its edge that scoop up dirt as the wheel turns. The Bagger 288 is big enough to move mountains.



This is an idea for a bus in China that could drive over other cars.

Big Vehicles

Big vehicles are used in many ways.

These vehicles move heavy loads.

They travel both above and below the ground.

Gigantic vehicles have gotten much bigger over the years. Some of these vehicles keep getting bigger and bigger. How big are they going to get?

Glossary

bridge (n.)	a structure built to allow passage over something, such as a river (p. 6)
bucket (n.)	a part of a machine used to dig in the ground or carry rocks, dirt, or other materials (p. 11)
gigantic (adj.)	very, very big (p. 15)
mines (n.)	places where minerals are taken from the ground by digging or blasting (p. 8)
platform (n.)	a flat surface that is higher than the area around it (p. 10)
vehicles (n.)	anything not living that is used to move people or goods (p. 4)

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