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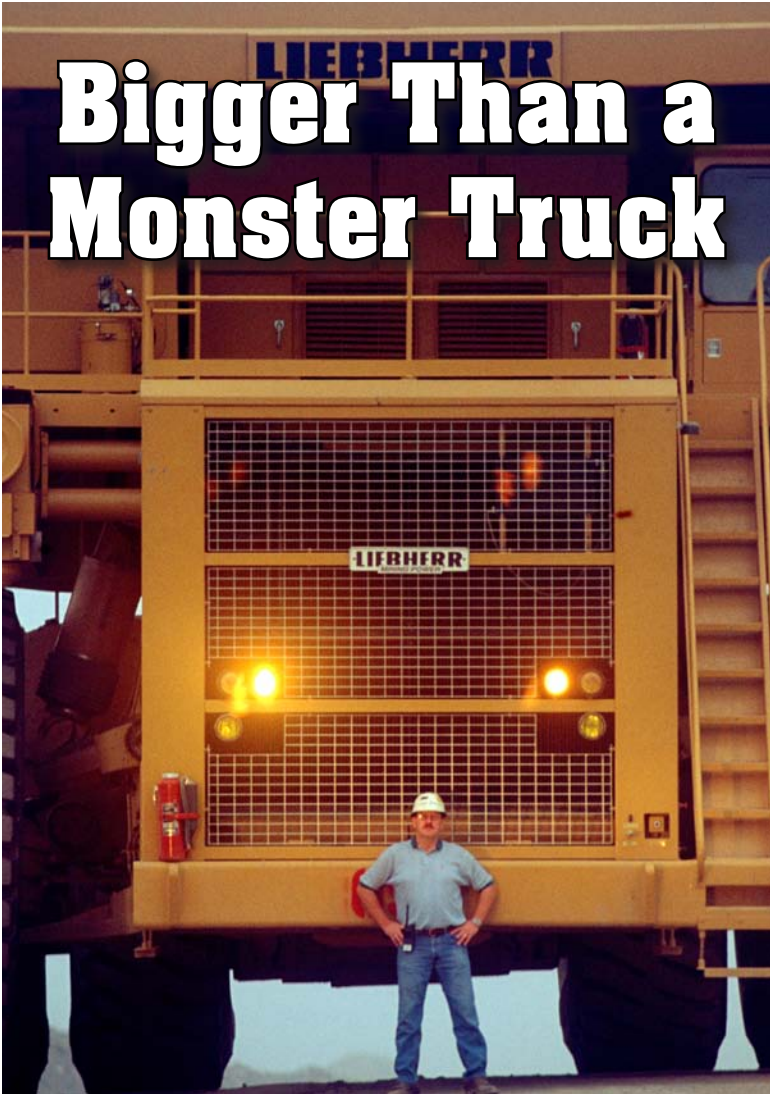
Bigger Than a Monster Truck

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Written by Sarah and Keith Kortemartin

www.readinga-z.com

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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 have big wheels and can drive over almost anything. As big as monster trucks are, some **vehicles** are even bigger.



Ducks can travel 50 miles per hour (80 kph) on land and 6.3 miles per hour (10.1 kph) in water.

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 travels on six wheels. In water, the Duck uses a **propeller**. The Duck can carry people and supplies to places that are hard to reach. Rescue workers sometimes use this truck to pick up people caught in storms. You can even ride a Duck for fun in some places.



Soldiers practice using a vehicle bridge.

Vehicle Bridge

This amazing machine is both a vehicle and a bridge. The vehicle bridge is used in places where there are no roads or bridges. The vehicle moves the bridge into place. Then the bridge moves up and over the gap. Other vehicles can then drive across. 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 objects from one place to another. These machines help workers build buildings and load and unload **cargo**. Some of the world's largest cranes move containers from ships to land. Others are used to lift supplies to the tops of buildings.



This dump truck is the largest truck in the world.

Dump Trucks

The world's biggest dump trucks are found at **mines**. Miners use these trucks to haul loads of rocks and dirt. Some trucks can move up to 400 tons of soil. Because they carry such heavy loads, they use some of the biggest tires in the world. Their tires are over 13 feet (4 m) tall—twice as tall as a person.



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

Overland Trains

These giant trains were built to haul loads to **remote** places without roads. The trains travel on huge wheels instead of on train tracks. Each wheel is about 10 feet (3 m) high and has its own motor. The longest overland train was almost 600 feet (183 m) long and pulled twelve cars. The lead car held six people, beds, and a kitchen.



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 **spacecraft**. They carry rockets, space shuttles, and other vehicles on a **platform** two stories high. These vehicles are so wide that they need their own road. Computers and a team of thirty people help these huge machines move.

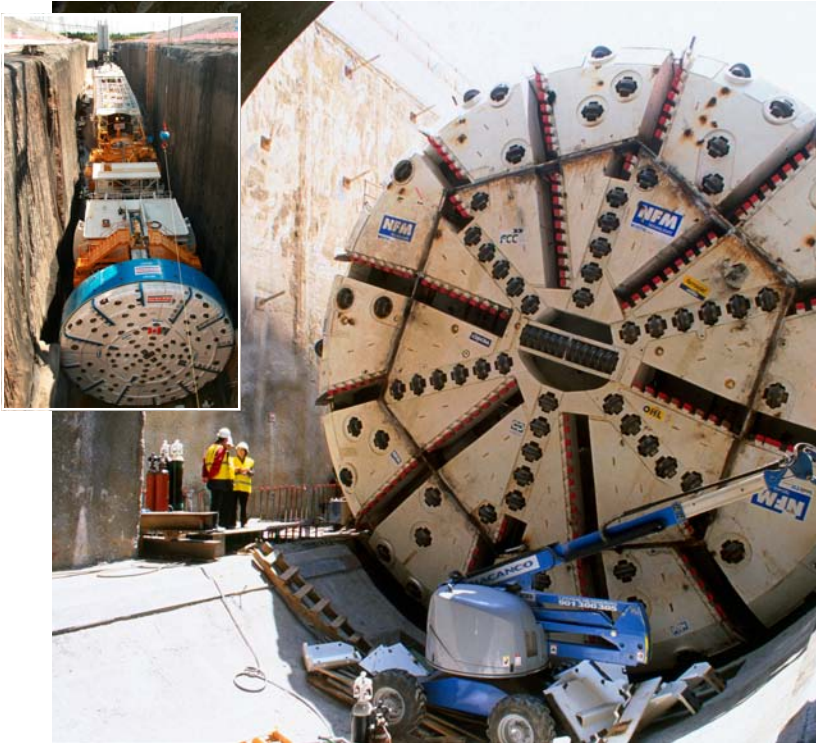


Some giant power shovels load dump trucks full of sand.

Vehicles That Dig

Giant Power Shovels

Miners use giant power shovels to dig loads of rocks and dirt out of a mine. These shovels have a big bucket that can break into the earth and scoop it up. Power shovels can be as tall as a sixteen-story building.



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

Tunnel Diggers

These machines dig tunnels under the earth. **Tunneling** machines can even move through solid rock. They use a drill to dig through the ground. These machines dug three tunnels under the ocean between England and France. The tunnels are big enough for large trains to pass through.



The Bagger 288 moves to a new mine.

Bagger 288

The largest vehicle in the world is the Bagger 288. This **enormous** machine is used for digging in mines. The Bagger is 705 feet (215 m) long—almost as long as two football fields.

Do You Know?

Helepolis

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.





The Bagger 288 weighs 13,500 tons.

The Bagger digs using a gigantic 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 a design for a bus in China that could drive over other cars

Big Vehicles

Huge vehicles are used in many ways. These amazing vehicles move heavy loads and travel both above and below the ground.

Gigantic vehicles have gotten much bigger over the years. It looks as though they will keep getting bigger and bigger. How big are they going to get?

Glossary

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| cargo (<i>n.</i>) | goods carried by a large vehicle (p. 7) |
| enormous (<i>adj.</i>) | very large (p. 13) |
| mines (<i>n.</i>) | places where minerals are taken from the ground by digging or blasting (p. 8) |
| platform (<i>n.</i>) | a flat surface that is higher than the area around it (p. 10) |
| propeller (<i>n.</i>) | a device with rotating blades connected to an engine, used to move a ship or aircraft (p. 5) |
| remote (<i>adj.</i>) | distant or isolated; in the distant past (p. 9) |
| spacecraft (<i>n.</i>) | a vehicle used for traveling in space (p. 10) |
| tunneling (<i>v.</i>) | digging a passageway underground or through something (p. 12) |
| vehicles (<i>n.</i>) | anything not living that is used to move people or goods (p. 4) |

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