



HIGHLY INVENTIVE



DIÉBÉDO KÉRÉ FRANCIS

Hello! My name is **Diébédó Francis Kéré**.
In 2022, I became the first African to win
the Pritzker Architecture Prize – the world's
top award for people who design buildings.

**But it has been a long
journey – literally!**

I grew up in a tiny village called Gando
in Burkina Faso, West Africa. There was
no school, but we were like one big family.
We played together in the village, laughed, and
built houses side by side. When I was seven, I went
to live with my uncle in the city of Tenkodogo to learn
to read and write. **My first journey!**

My school was very hot, with
little light or air, and one hundred
children all crowded together.
This was when I decided that
one day I wanted to build better
schools for everyone – beginning
back home in Gando!

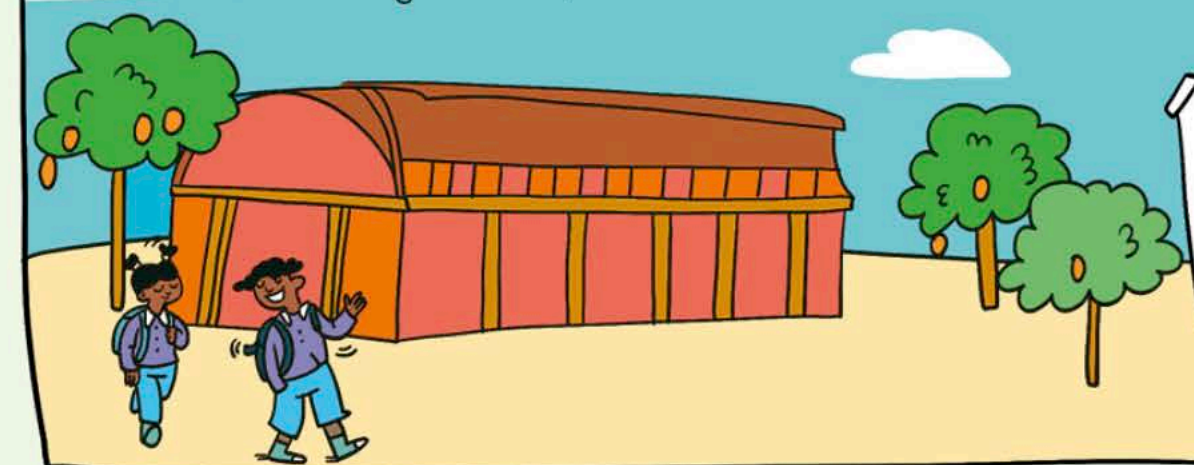


After leaving school, I became a
carpenter, working with wood. Skills like
these can take you far. Mine took me to
Berlin, Germany, where I eventually went
to college to study architecture.

could I make my dream come true?

Maybe! I headed home to Gando to build an eco-friendly school with the
help of the community. We made mud bricks rather than use expensive
cement and planted mango trees for shade – as well as their tasty fruit!

It was finished in 2001 with a raised roof to beat the heat.
I qualified as an architect soon afterwards and went back to
build a high school, as well as homes for teachers too!



But, best of all, my cool school inspired others like it to be built.
Now I have designed buildings all over the world that work with nature, not against it.



BENIN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
PORTO-NOVO, BENIN



TUM TOWER, UNIVERSITY OF
MUNICH, GERMANY

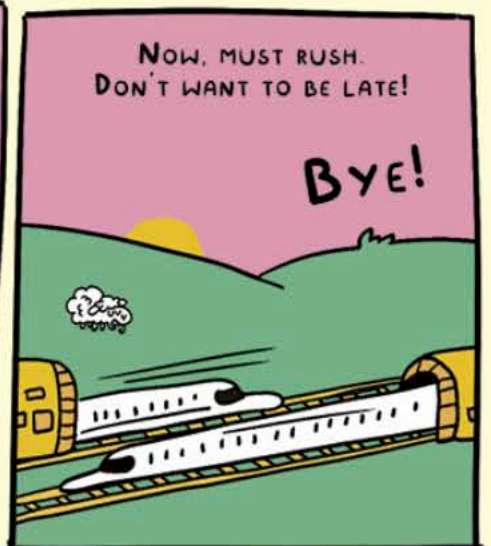
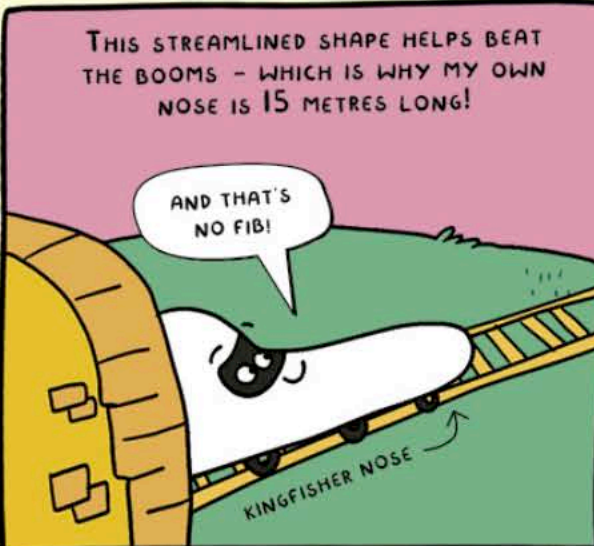
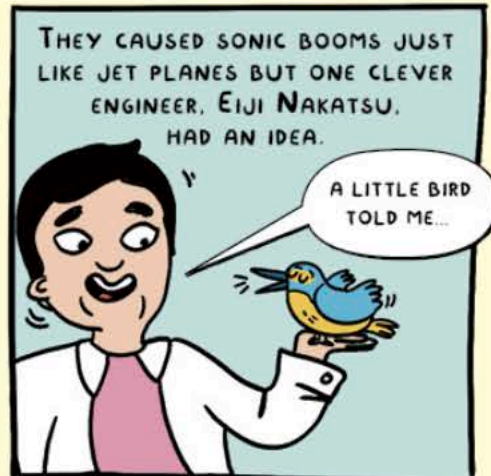
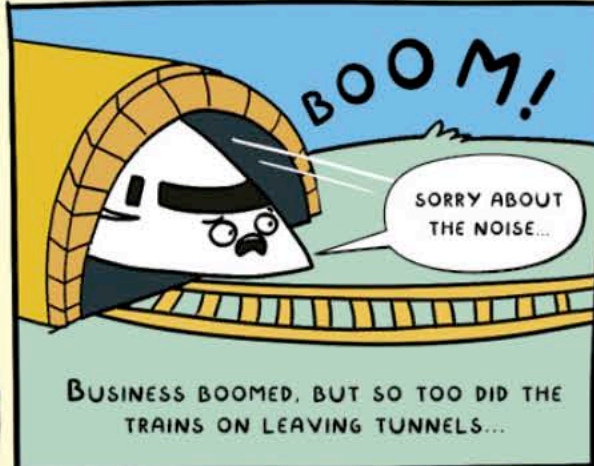
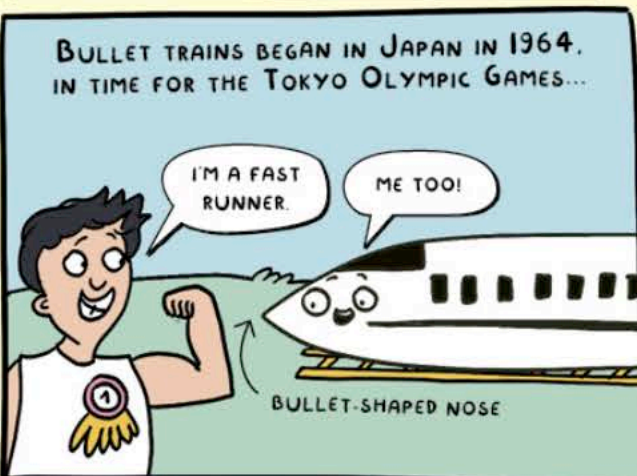
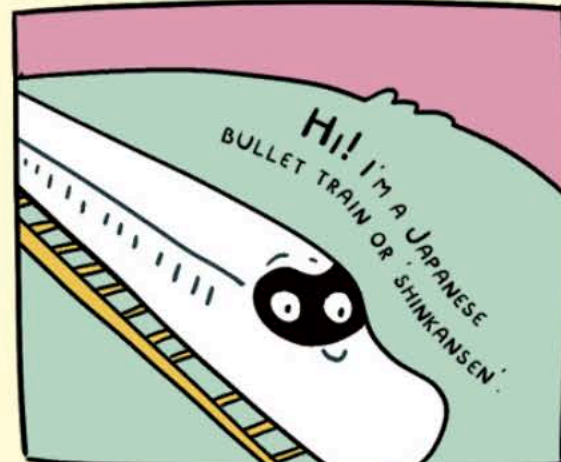


SERPENTINE PAVILION,
LONDON, UK

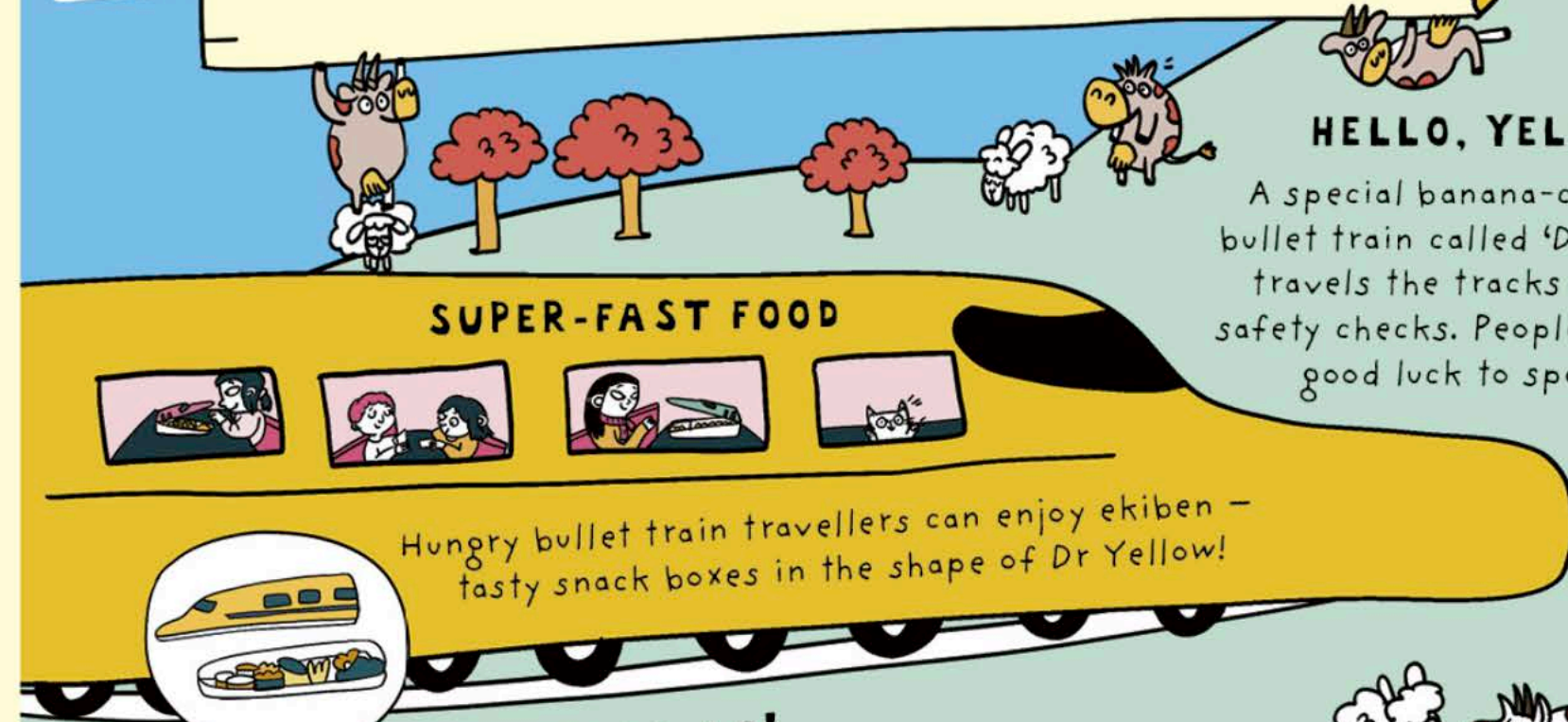
It's been a great journey – and it isn't over yet!



BULLET TRAIN



WHATEVER NEXT? BULLET POINTS



HELLO, YELLOW!

A special banana-coloured bullet train called 'Dr Yellow' travels the tracks making safety checks. People say it is good luck to spot it!



The 'LO' (L Zero) is an experimental shinkansen that rides on magnets rather than rails. In 2015, it set a world record train speed of 603 km/h! L.O.L!



Though most bullet trains are largely white, some rail regions have their own special colours. One super-cute shinkansen was decorated in pink and white for the Japanese cartoon character, Hello Kitty!

WIND TURBINE

Hi! I'm a gust of wind heading for the world's tallest turbine.

SEE YOU IN A SHORT WHILE!

WHEEE!

MEANWHILE

Hi! That top turbine is me! 260 metres high and stood by the sea in Rotterdam, Netherlands!

Few of you humans have seen me close-up because I'm so tall and big - each of my blades is the length of a football pitch.

Wind hitting my blades pushes them round and turns a giant wire coil inside some powerful magnets...

...This generates electricity by an effect discovered in 1831 by British boffin Michael Faraday.

A machine that turns motion into electricity is called a 'dynamo'.

MEET ME AGAIN ON PAGE 68.

YOU COULD SAY I HAVE A 'DYNAMIC PERSONALITY'!

BUT IT TOOK UNTIL 1887 FOR SCOTTISH SCIENTIST JAMES BLYTH TO BUILD THE WORLD'S FIRST WIND TURBINE.

WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS SOONER?

IT'S A REAL LIGHTBULB MOMENT!

IT LIT THE LAMPS IN HIS HOLIDAY HOME!

OF COURSE, HUMANS HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH WIND FOR MANY CENTURIES...



BOATS WINDMILLS KITES

SADLY, HIS IDEA WAS OVERLOOKED IN FAVOUR OF FILTHY FUELS LIKE COAL BEING BURNED IN POWER STATIONS.

WHAT A PITY. KOF! KOF!

BUT A CLEAN, GREEN MACHINE LIKE ME CAN POWER 16,000 HOMES WITHOUT CREATING ANY GREENHOUSE GASES...

REMEMBER ME?

ALL THANKS TO GUSTS LIKE THIS GUY!

COMING THROUGH!

NOW I'M OFF TO FIND A SKYSCRAPER! BYE!

WHATEVER NEXT? STAR TURNS

WATCH OUT! TURBINES AHEAD!

DESERT WINDS

A collection of turbines is called a windfarm or an array. The world's largest windfarm, with over 7,000 turbines, is in Gansu, a remote part of China, next to the windy Gobi desert.

RED ALERT

Most turbines are painted white so they are easier for airline pilots to spot. In Germany, **red bands** on the blades indicate how near they are to airports.

SEE THE LIGHT!

One turbine close to the coast in the North European region of Frisia has been painted to look like a traditional local **lighthouse**.

BAT SIGNAL

Turbines are good for the planet, but can sadly be bad for birds and bats. Some have **boom boxes** to play high-frequency noises that scare bats away at night.