

THE **BRISTOL** **COMIC**



By **EUGENE BYRNE** (words)
& **SIMON GURR** (pictures)

THE LEGEND OF THE BRISTOL GIANTS

DID YOU KNOW THAT BRISTOL WAS BUILT BY GIANTS?

THEY WERE CALLED VINCENT AND GORAM,
AND THEY WERE BROTHERS.

THEY BOTH FELL IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER
GIANT CALLED AVONA.

SHE DECIDED TO SET THE BROTHERS A
TEST. SHE TOLD THEM TO DRAIN THE
WATER FROM A BIG LAKE.



THE BROTHERS STARTED TO DIG A CHANNEL SO THE
WATER WOULD RUN OUT TO SEA, BUT GORAM GOT
DRUNK AND FELL ASLEEP.

VINCENT FINISHED THE CHANNEL ON HIS OWN AND
MARRIED AVONA.

THAT CHANNEL IS NOW CALLED THE AVON GORGE.
THOUSANDS OF YEARS LATER, ISAMBARD KINGDOM
BRUNEL BUILT A BRIDGE ACROSS IT.

AND THE LAND THAT USED TO BE UNDER THE LAKE IS
WHERE BRISTOL WAS BUILT.

THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER
INTERESTING STORIES ABOUT
BRISTOL IN THIS COMIC AND
MOST OF THEM ARE TRUE!



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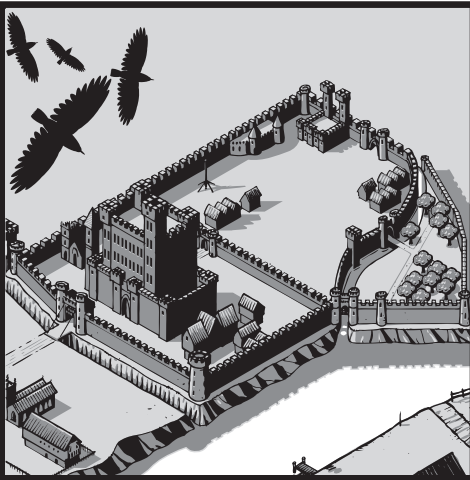
DID YOU KNOW?

BRISTOL HAS ITS VERY OWN DINOSAUR.

IT IS CALLED THECODONTOSAURUS AND IT LIVED OVER 200 MILLION YEARS AGO. ITS REMAINS WERE DUG UP IN CLIFTON IN THE 1830S.

IT WAS ABOUT A METRE LONG, HALF A METRE TALL AND IT ATE PLANTS.

YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT ON THE BRISTOL DINOSAUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BRISTOLDINOSAUR.COM



BRISTOL USED TO HAVE A CASTLE IN THE CITY CENTRE.

IT WAS BUILT BY THE NORMANS WHO INVADED BRITAIN IN 1066. THEY WERE LED BY WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

FOR NEARLY 600 YEARS, THE CASTLE WAS THE BIGGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT BUILDING IN BRISTOL.

IT WAS PULLED DOWN IN 1654 BUT YOU CAN STILL SEE A FEW OF ITS STONES IN CASTLE PARK.

BRISTOL BECAME A RICH CITY BECAUSE IT WAS A PORT.

IT WAS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE COULD COME TO TRADE. THAT MEANS THEY COULD BUY AND SELL OR EXCHANGE THINGS.

IN THE MIDDLE AGES, THE MOST IMPORTANT TRADE WAS IN CLOTH. THE CLOTH WAS WOVEN IN BRISTOL FROM LOCAL WOOL. IT WAS THEN TRADED FOR WINE FROM FRANCE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

LATER, BRISTOL WOULD GET EVEN RICHER TRADING IN AFRICAN SLAVES AND SUGAR FROM THE WEST INDIES. THIS TRADE WAS STOPPED IN 1807.

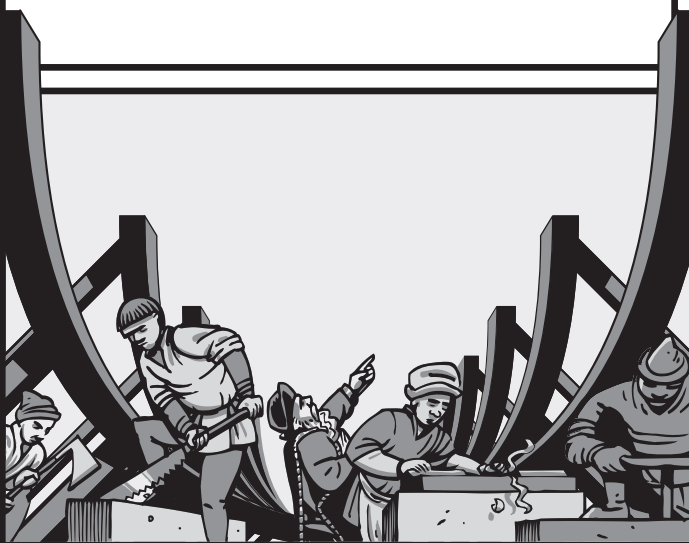


BRISTOL WAS FAMOUS FOR ITS SHIPBUILDING.

AMONG THE MANY SHIPS BUILT IN BRISTOL WAS THE 'MATTHEW'. JOHN CABOT SAILED ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN IN THIS SHIP IN 1497.

BRUNEL'S IRON STEAMSHIP, THE SS 'GREAT BRITAIN', WAS FIRST LAUNCHED IN BRISTOL IN 1843. TO LAUNCH A SHIP MEANS TO PUT IT IN WATER. YOU CAN NOW VISIT SS 'GREAT BRITAIN' IN BRISTOL DOCKS.

THE LAST BIG SHIP TO BE BUILT IN BRISTOL WAS THE 'MIRANDA GUINNESS'. IT WAS LAUNCHED IN 1976.





THERE USED TO BE PIRATES LIVING ON LUNDY ISLAND IN THE BRISTOL CHANNEL.

FRENCH PIRATES LIVED THERE IN THE EARLY 1400S. THE ISLAND WAS THEN USED BY THE BARBARY PIRATES FROM NORTH AFRICA. THEY USED TO CAPTURE SHIPS IN THE CHANNEL AND SOMETIMES ATTACKED VILLAGES ON THE COAST.

BLACKBEARD THE PIRATE WAS BORN IN BRISTOL AROUND 1680. HE USED TO GO INTO BATTLE WITH THREE PAIRS OF PISTOLS.

ANOTHER FAMOUS BRISTOL PIRATE IS LONG JOHN SILVER. HE IS IN THE BOOK 'TREASURE ISLAND'.



THERE USED TO BE LOTS OF BUSY FACTORIES IN BRISTOL IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

FOR MANY YEARS, THE BIGGEST ONE WAS FRY'S CHOCOLATE FACTORY. THOUSANDS OF BRISTOL PEOPLE WORKED THERE. IT LATER MOVED TO KEYNSHAM.

THOUSANDS OF BRISTOL PEOPLE ALSO WORKED IN CIGARETTE FACTORIES. THESE WERE OWNED BY THE WILLS FAMILY. THEY WERE AT REDCLIFFE, BEDMINSTER, ASHTON AND, LATER, HARTCLIFFE.

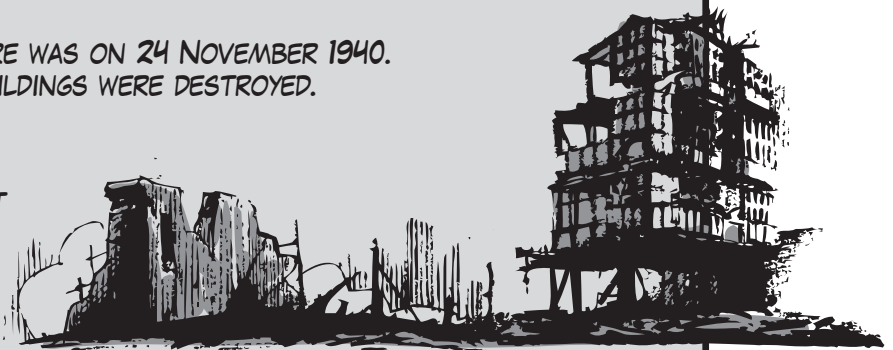
OTHER THINGS MADE IN BRISTOL INCLUDED SOAP, GLASS AND POTTERY.

DURING WORLD WAR TWO, BRISTOL WAS BOMBED BY THE GERMANS.

THIS WAS CALLED THE BRISTOL BLITZ.

THE FIRST BIG ATTACK ON THE CITY CENTRE WAS ON 24 NOVEMBER 1940. OVER 200 PEOPLE WERE KILLED. MANY BUILDINGS WERE DESTROYED.

BY THE END OF THE WAR, OVER 1,000 BRISTOLIANS HAD BEEN KILLED BY BOMBS AND THOUSANDS HAD BEEN INJURED. MOST OF THE CITY CENTRE HAD TO BE RE-BUILT. THERE WERE NEW HOUSING ESTATES BUILT AS WELL.



UNTIL THE EARLY 1960S, THE BRISTOL BUS COMPANY WOULD NOT HIRE BLACK OR ASIAN PEOPLE TO WORK ON THE BUSES.

PAUL STEPHENSON LED A PROTEST AGAINST THIS RACISM IN 1963. MANY LOCAL PEOPLE REFUSED TO TRAVEL ON THE BUSES. THIS WAS KNOWN AS THE BRISTOL BUS BOYCOTT.

BECAUSE OF THE BOYCOTT, THE BUS COMPANY WAS LOSING MONEY. IT ALSO GOT LOTS OF BAD PUBLICITY. AFTER FOUR MONTHS, THE MANAGERS AGREED TO START HIRING NON-WHITE STAFF.



THE BRISTOL MAP

In the 1670s, James Millerd drew a map of Bristol. It was the best map that had ever been made of the city. It had pictures on it of some of Bristol's buildings.



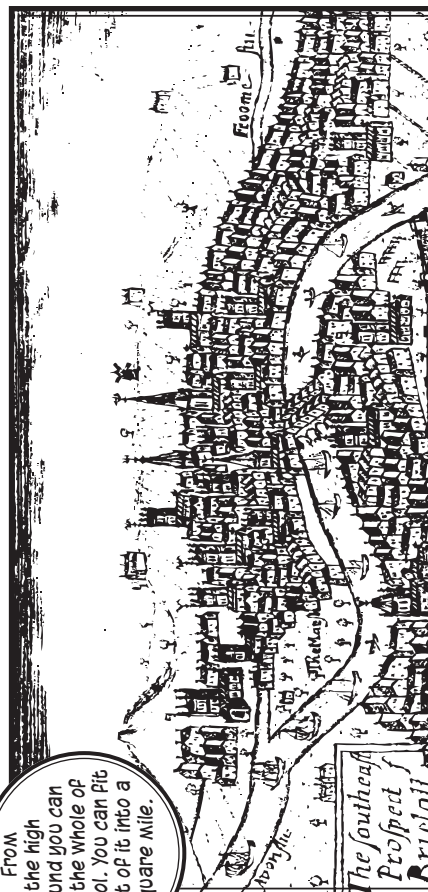
Millerd was given a silver tankard worth £10 for his work.

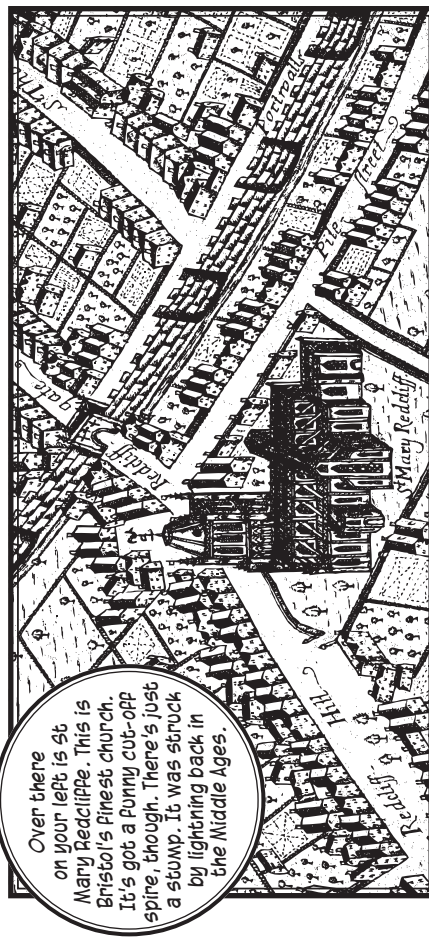
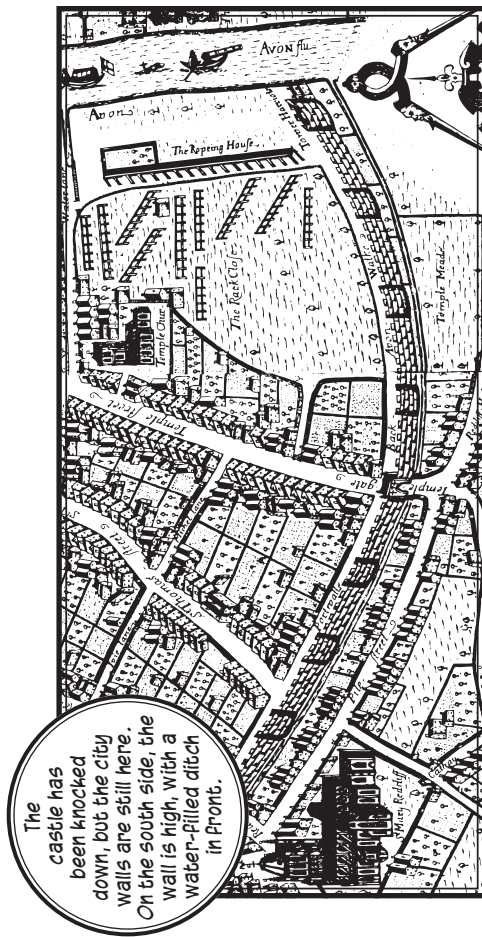


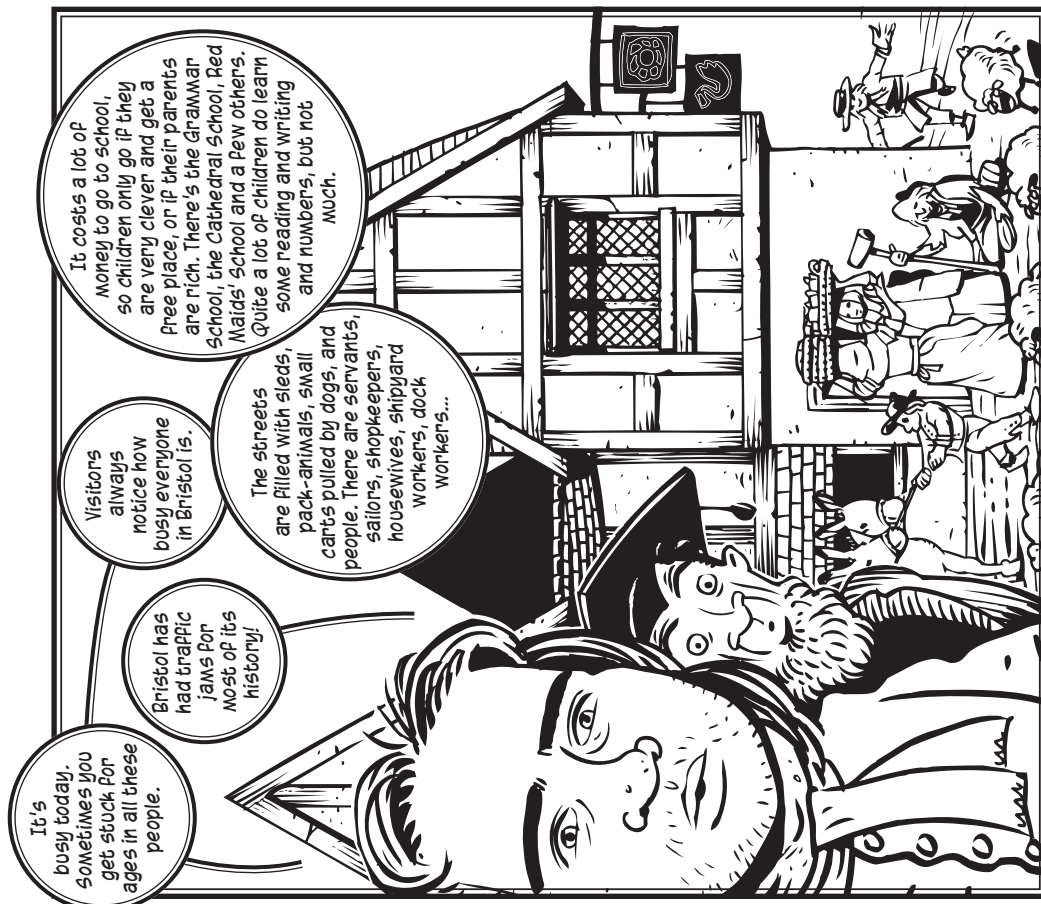
Let's spend the next few pages visiting Bristol around 1700.



From the high ground you can see the whole of Bristol. You can fit most of it into a square mile.







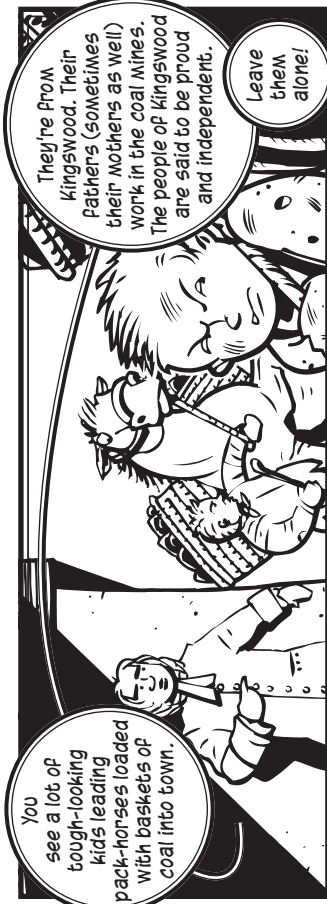
It's busy today. Sometimes you get stuck for ages in all these people.

Visitors always notice how busy everyone in Bristol is.

Bristol has had traffic jams for most of its history!

It costs a lot of money to go to school, so children only go if they are very clever and get a free place, or if their parents are rich. There's the Grammar School, the Cathedral School, Red Maids' School and a few others. Quite a lot of children do learn some reading and writing and numbers, but not much.

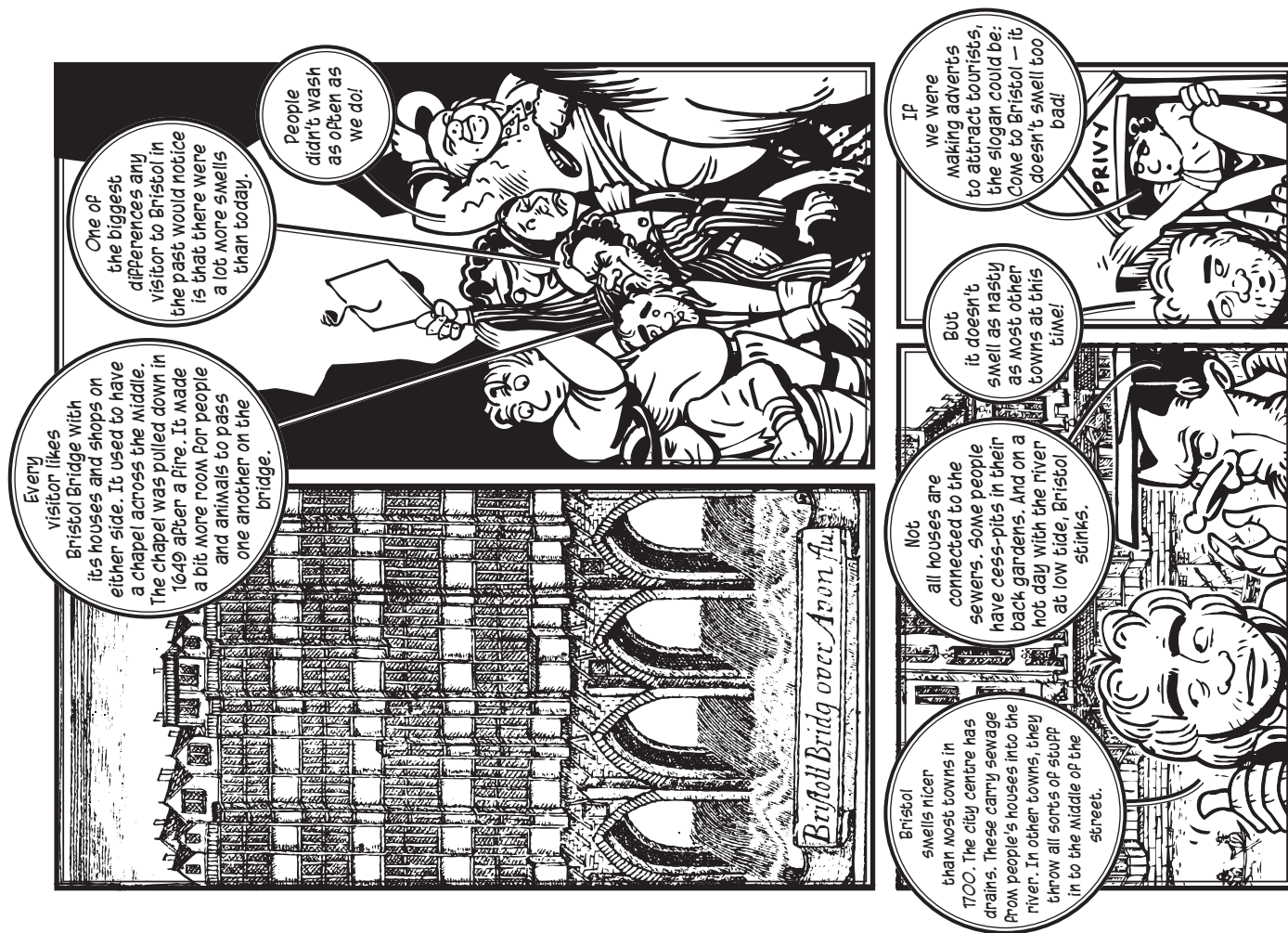
The streets are filled with sleds, pack-animals, small carts pulled by dogs, and people. There are servants, sailors, shopkeepers, housewives, shipyard workers, dock workers...



You see a lot of tough-looking kids leading pack-horses loaded with baskets of coal into town.

They're from Kingswood. Their fathers (sometimes their mothers as well) work in the coal mines. The people of Kingswood are said to be proud and independent.

Leave them alone!



Every visitor likes Bristol Bridge with its houses and shops on either side. It's used to have a chapel across the middle. The chapel was pulled down in 1649 after a fire. It made a bit more room for people and animals to pass one another on the bridge.

One of the biggest differences any visitor to Bristol in the past would notice is that there were a lot more smells than today.

People didn't wash as often as we do!

Bristol Smells nicer than most towns in 1700. The city centre has drains. These carry sewage from people's houses into the river. In other towns, they throw all sorts of stuff in to the middle of the street.

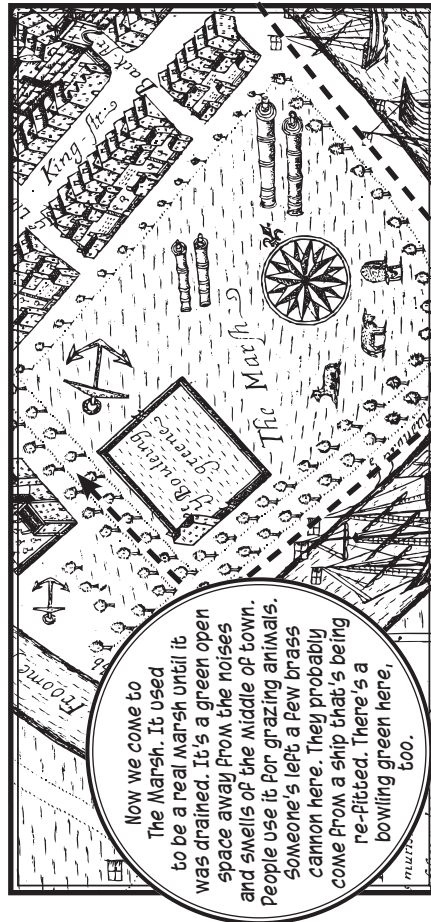
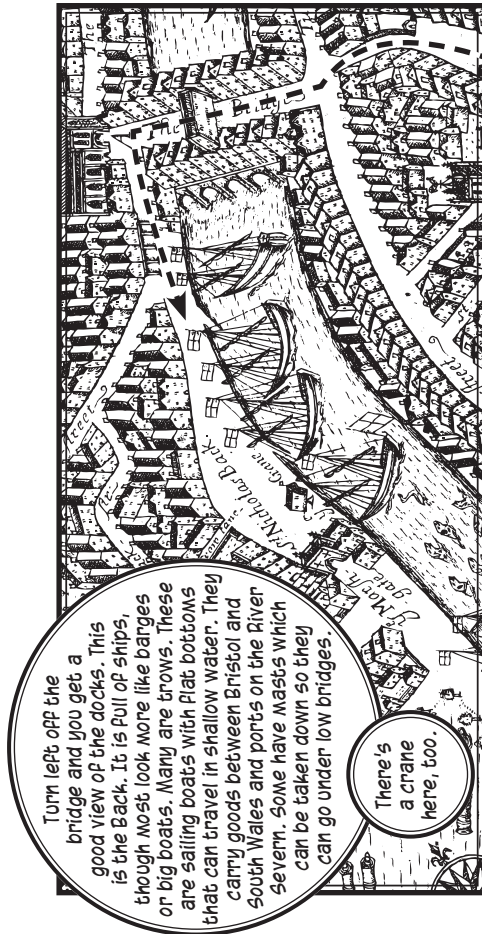
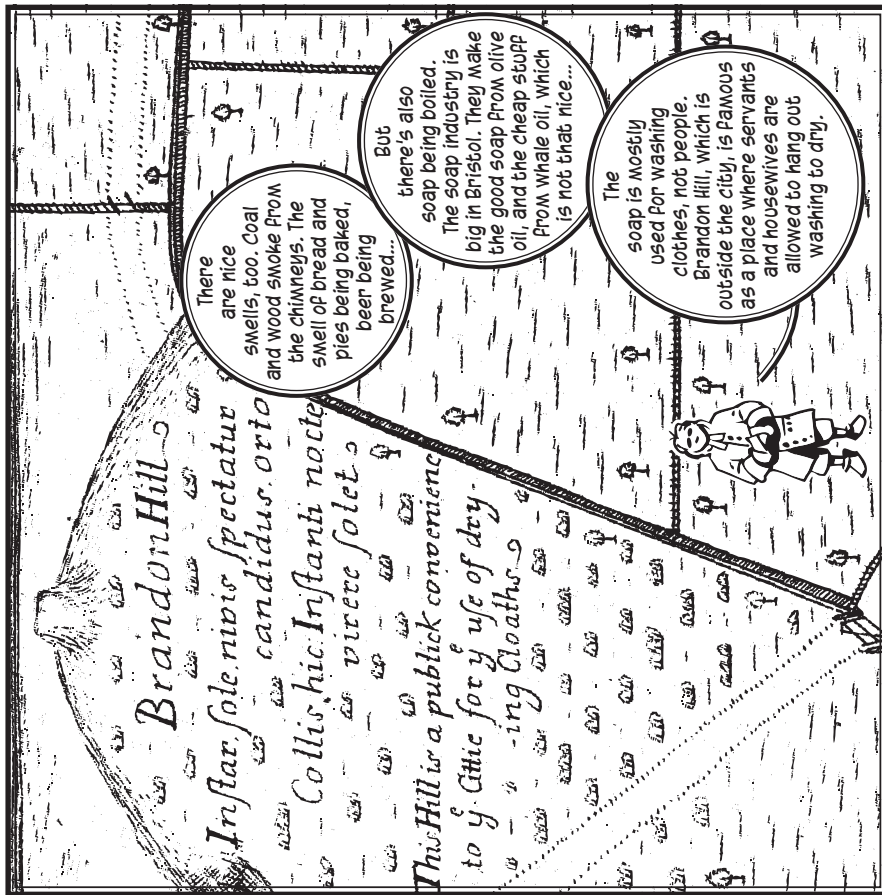
Not all houses are connected to the sewers. Some people have cess-pits in their back gardens. And on a hot day with the river at low tide, Bristol stinks.

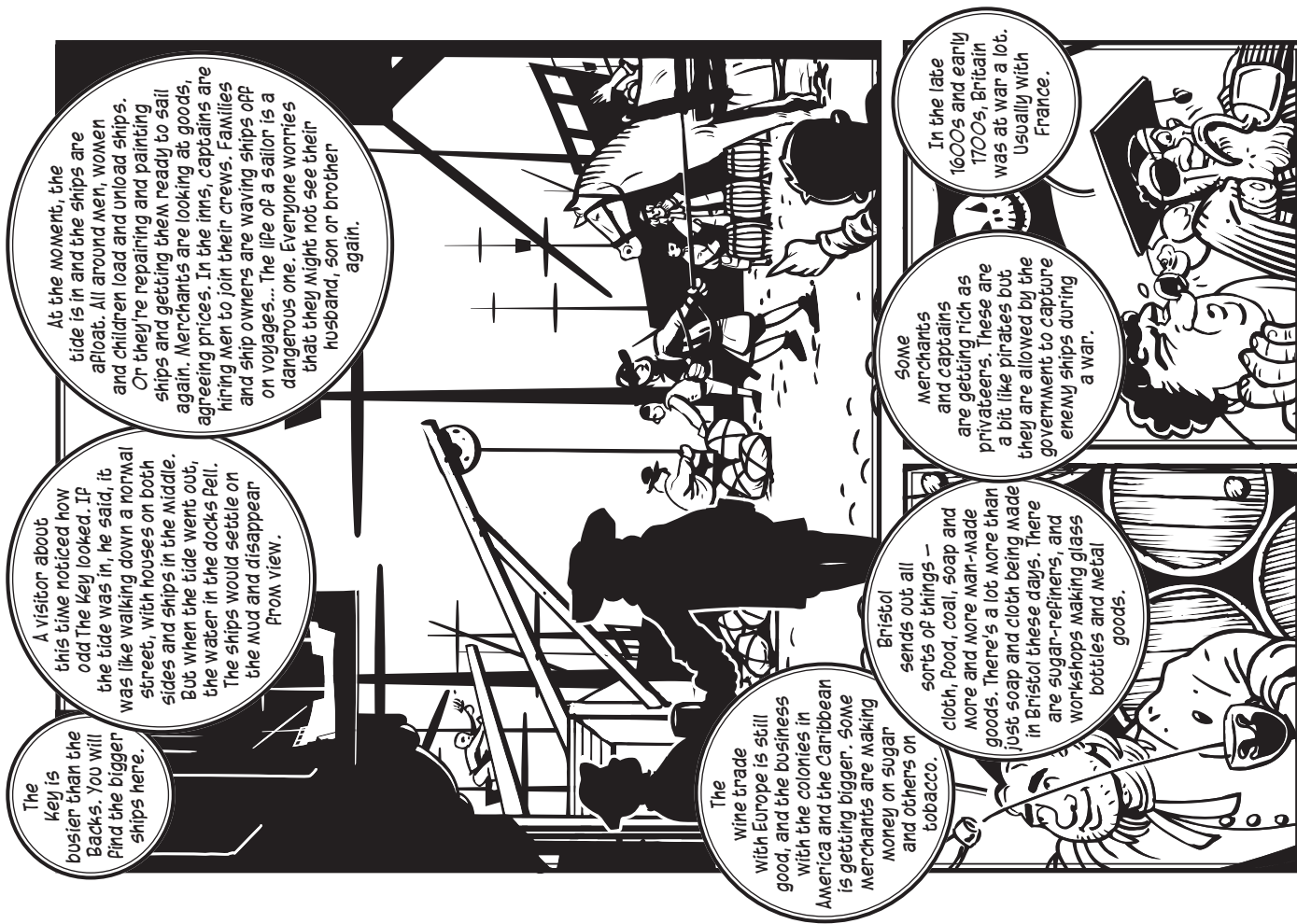
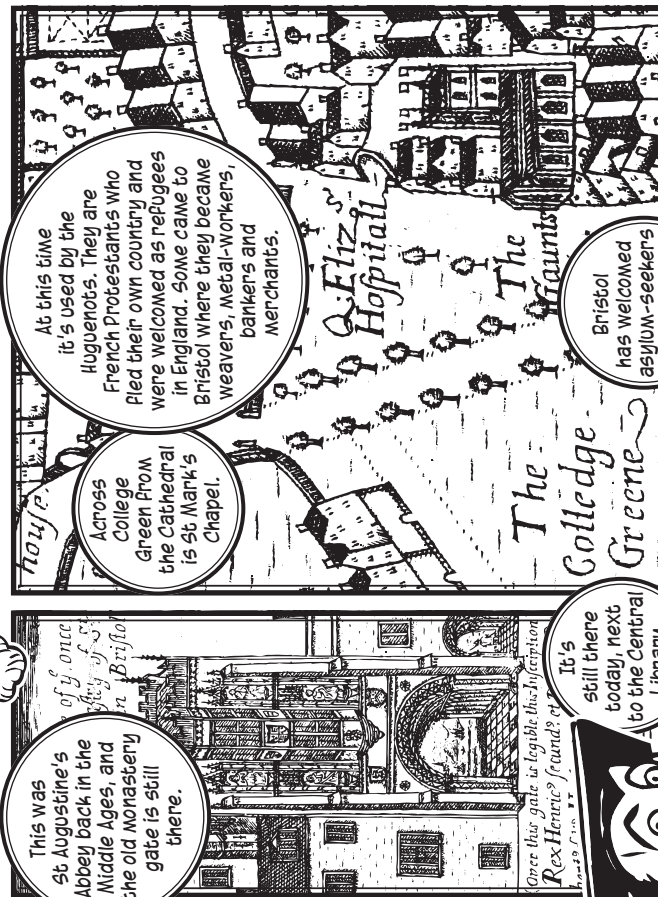
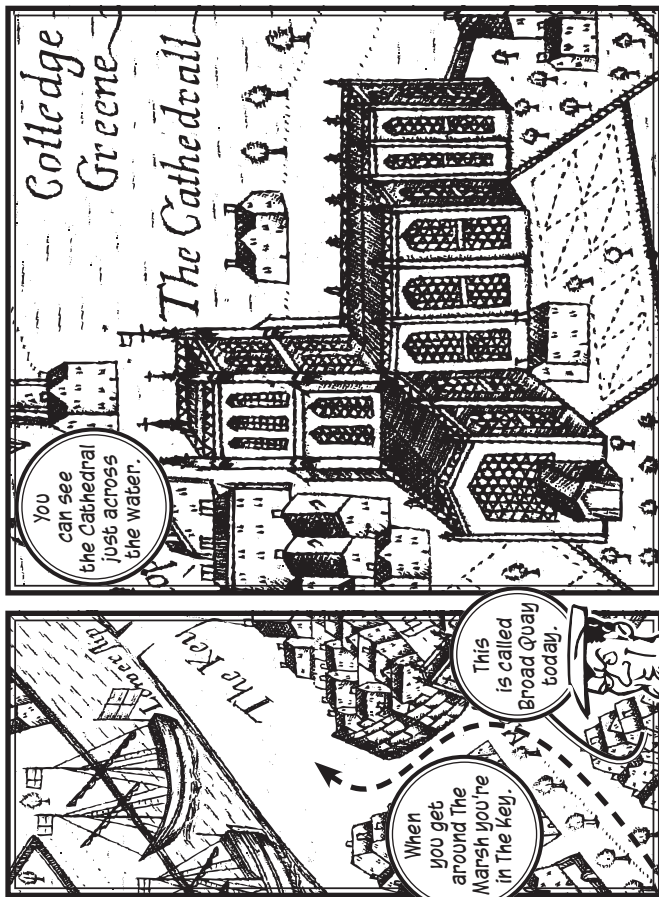
But it doesn't smell as nasty as most other towns at this time!

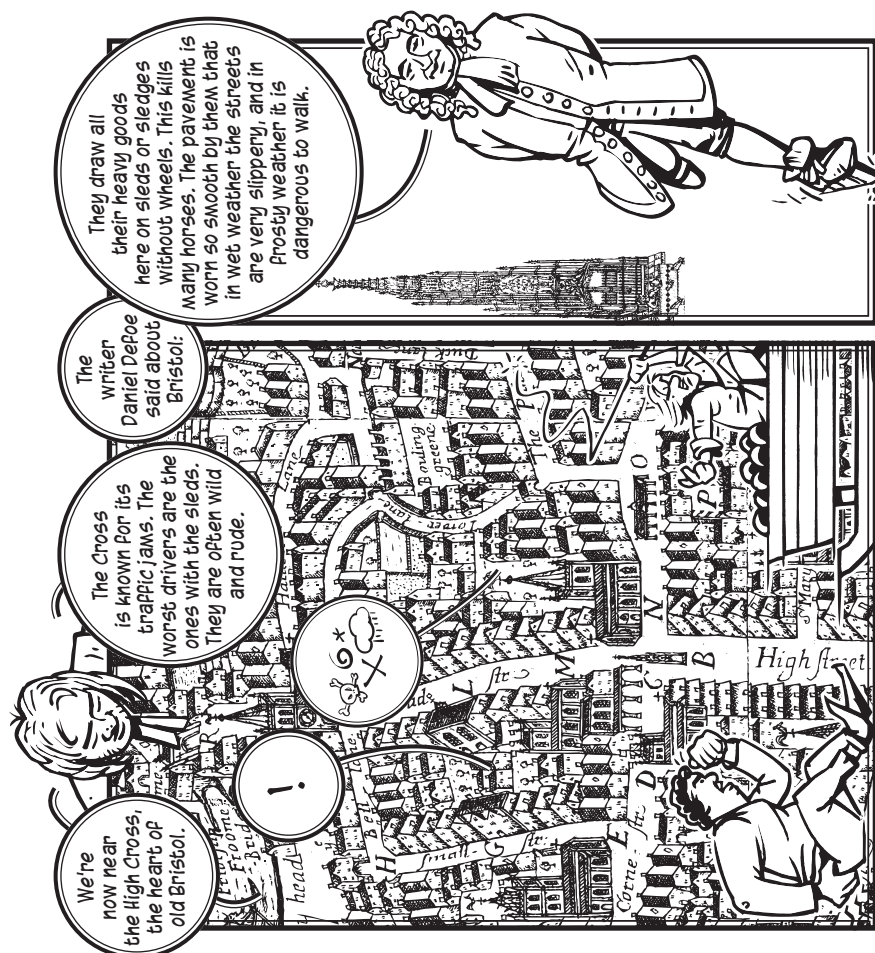
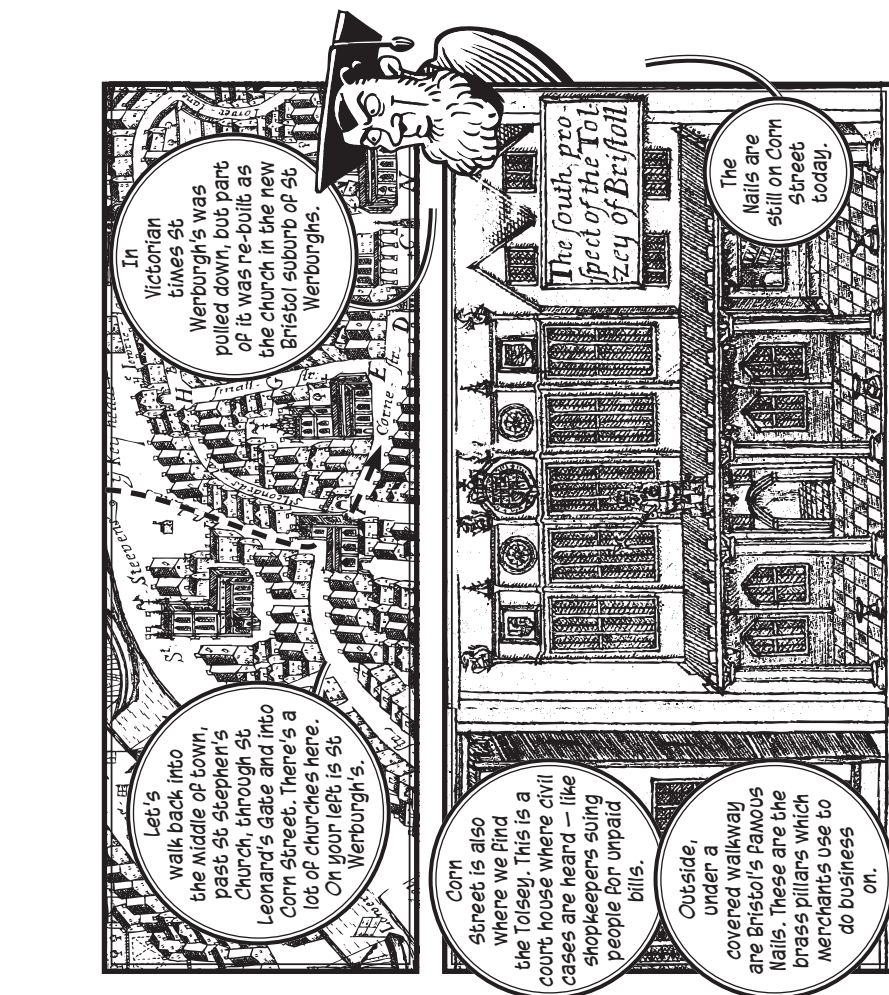
If we were making adverts to attract tourists, the slogan could be: Come to Bristol - it doesn't smell too bad!

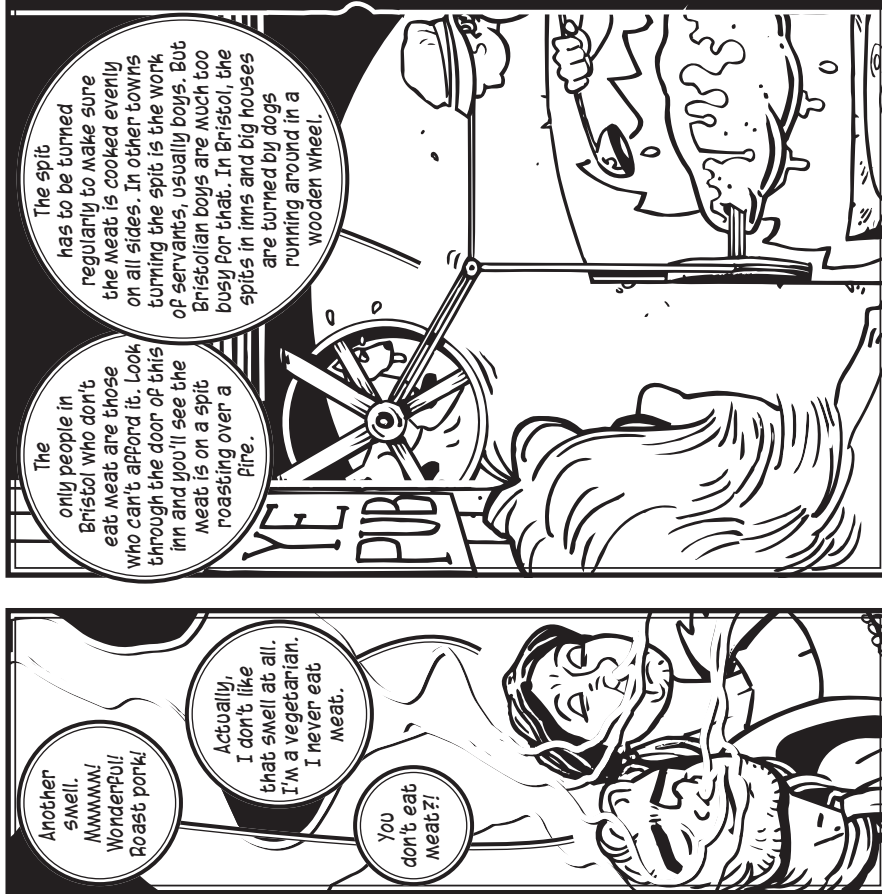
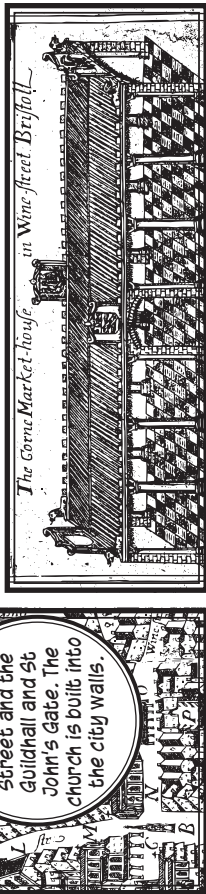
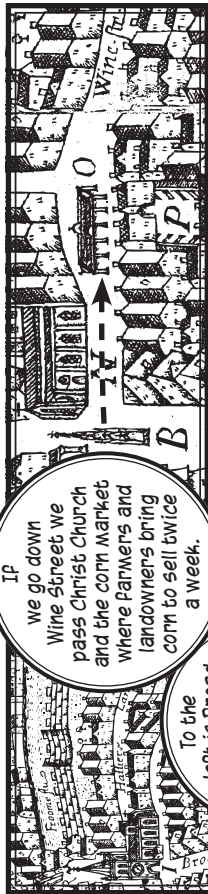
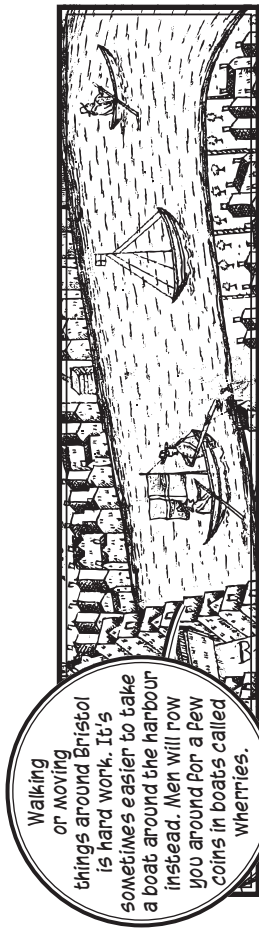
PRIVY

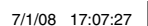
Bristol Bridge over Avon













Visitors all admire the Avon Gorge and St Vincent's Rock.

Where the suspension Bridge is today.

Celia Fiennes said: I went two miles to the hot spring, which is very clear. The water is as warm as new milk and almost as sweet.

St Vincent's Rock is also famous as a place to get quartz crystals known as Bristol Diamonds or Bristol Adamants.

People use them for making jewellery.

They dig what they call Bristol Diamonds out of the rock.

They're not real diamonds but look just like them, and can be cut and polished and used in rings and earrings.

They gave me one that was very bright and sparkling.

And that's Bristol in 1700. It's a proud and busy place where people work hard — though only a few actually get rich.

And it smells a lot nicer than most other places.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR VISIT TO BRISTOL IN 1700.

SOME THINGS WERE THE SAME AS THEY ARE TODAY — THE STREETS WERE BUSY AND THERE WERE TRAFFIC JAMS.

SOME THINGS WERE DIFFERENT — THERE WERE NO CARS.

WHAT OTHER THINGS WERE DIFFERENT?

HERE ARE SOME CLUES TO HELP YOU:

TYPES OF SMELLS.

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

THE SIZE OF THE CITY.

TYPES OF WORK.

GOING TO SCHOOL.

BUILDINGS.

TYPES OF TRANSPORT.

WOULD YOU HAVE LIKED TO HAVE LIVED IN BRISTOL IN 1700?

WHY?

IF YOU COULD VISIT BRISTOL 300 YEARS IN THE FUTURE, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CITY WOULD BE LIKE?

DRAW A PICTURE OF BRISTOL IN THE YEAR 2300.



SOME DEAD INTERESTING BRISTOLIANS

WILLIAM WORCESTER WAS BORN IN BRISTOL IN 1415.

HE WORKED IN NORFOLK.

WHEN HE WASN'T WORKING, WILLIAM WROTE BOOKS ABOUT HISTORY, MEDICINE AND POLITICS. HE ALSO LIKED TO VISIT PLACES AND WRITE ABOUT THEM. HE WAS PROBABLY ENGLAND'S FIRST GEOGRAPHER.

HE CAME BACK TO BRISTOL AND WROTE ABOUT THE CITY. HE MEASURED ITS WALLS, STREETS AND BUILDINGS. HE WAS ALSO FRIENDLY AND TALKED TO THE INTERESTING PEOPLE HE MET. ONE OF THESE WAS A BUTCHER WHO WAS CLIMBING THE AVON GORGE JUST FOR FUN.



SIR JOHN HARINGTON WAS BORN IN 1561.

WHEN HE WAS AT THE COURT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH I, HE GOT INTO TROUBLE WHEN HE TRANSLATED THE RUDE BITS OF AN ITALIAN POEM INTO ENGLISH. THE QUEEN WAS ANGRY AND SENT HIM HOME IN DISGRACE.

SIR JOHN'S HOME WAS KELSTON MANOR NEAR BRISTOL. WHILE HE WAS THERE, HE INVENTED A TOILET. AT THAT TIME, PEOPLE USED HOLES IN THE GROUND, OR POTS THAT WERE EMPTIED INTO PITS, STREAMS OR THE STREET. SIR JOHN'S TOILET HAD A PAN TO SIT ON AND A WATER TANK TO FLUSH IT. THIS WENT INTO A BUCKET WHICH THE SERVANTS COULD THEN TAKE AWAY. LUCKY SERVANTS!

DOROTHY HAZZARD RAN A GROCER'S SHOP IN BRISTOL'S HIGH STREET.

SHE WAS ALSO A VICAR'S WIFE.

SHE WAS INTERESTED IN RELIGION AND SET UP BRISTOL'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

DURING THE CIVIL WAR, DOROTHY LED 200 WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO BLOCKED ONE OF THE CITY GATES WHEN IT WAS ATTACKED BY THE ROYALIST ARMY. THE ROYALISTS WERE STILL ABLE TO CAPTURE THE CITY AND DOROTHY HAD TO ESCAPE. SHE LATER CAME BACK TO BRISTOL AND DIED HERE IN 1674.



HANNAH MORE WAS BORN IN FISHPONDS IN 1745.

HANNAH TAUGHT FOR A WHILE, BUT SHE GAVE UP TEACHING TO BECOME A WRITER. AT FIRST SHE WROTE POEMS AND PLAYS, BUT, AS SHE GREW OLDER, HER WRITING BECAME MORE SERIOUS. SHE WROTE ABOUT RELIGION AND AGAINST SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE TRADE. SHE BECAME BRISTOL'S BEST KNOWN ABOLITIONIST.

SHE ALSO SET UP SCHOOLS FOR LOCAL POOR CHILDREN.





SOME DEAD INTERESTING BRISTOLIANS

THE POET THOMAS CHATTERTON WAS BORN IN BRISTOL IN 1752.

WHEN HE WAS A BOY, HE SPENT A LOT OF TIME AT ST MARY REDCLIFFE CHURCH. HE LOVED THE TOMBS OF ALL THE KNIGHTS AND MERCHANTS. HE ALSO LIKED TO LOOK AT THE OLD PAPERS HE FOUND IN AN UPSTAIRS ROOM. HE SAID HE HAD FOUND A HISTORY OF BRISTOL WRITTEN BY A MEDIEVAL MONK. HE HAD ACTUALLY WRITTEN IT HIMSELF BUT HE FOOLED A LOT OF PEOPLE.

THOMAS' FIRST POEMS WERE PUBLISHED WHEN HE WAS 11. HE DIED IN LONDON WHEN HE WAS JUST 17. MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE HE WAS A GENIUS.



IN APRIL 1817, A YOUNG WOMAN WAS FOUND WANDERING ABOUT IN ALMONDSBURY. NO ONE COULD UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE WAS SAYING. USING SIGN LANGUAGE AND SOME MALAYASIAN AND ARABIC WORDS, SHE EVENTUALLY TOLD HER STORY.

SHE SAID SHE WAS PRINCESS CARABOO FROM THE EAST INDIES. SHE HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY PIRATES AND HAD JUMPED FROM THE SHIP WHEN IT WAS IN THE BRISTOL CHANNEL.

SHE WAS VERY POPULAR. EVERYONE WANTED TO MEET HER. BUT ONE DAY SOMEONE SAW HER AND SAID: "THAT'S MARY BAKER!" SHE WASN'T A PRINCESS AT ALL BUT WAS A SERVANT GIRL FROM DEVON.

SAMUEL PLIMSOLL WAS BORN IN BRISTOL IN 1824.

HE MADE HIS MONEY SELLING COAL.

IN 1864, HE ALMOST DROWNED WHEN HE TRAVELLED IN A SHIP THAT WAS IN A POOR CONDITION. HE DECIDED HE WOULD WORK TO IMPROVE SAFETY AT SEA.

WHEN HE WAS ELECTED MP FOR DERBY, HE BROUGHT IN NEW LAWS TO MAKE SHIPS SAFER. THIS WAS GOOD NEWS FOR THE SAILORS OF BRISTOL AND THE REST OF BRITAIN.



THE WRITER AMELIA EDWARDS WAS BORN IN LONDON IN 1831.

SHE LATER MOVED TO WESTBURY ON TRYM.

ONE YEAR, SHE AND HER FRIEND LUCY WENT TO EGYPT. THIS WAS VERY DARING. IN THOSE DAYS, WOMEN DID NOT USUALLY TRAVEL WITHOUT MEN.

AMELIA SPENT THE REST OF HER LIFE WRITING ABOUT EGYPT AND TRYING TO STOP TOURISTS DAMAGING THE ANCIENT SITES THERE. SHE IS BURIED IN HENBURY.





DAREDEVIL CHARLIE STEPHENS WAS BORN IN 1862.

HE WAS A BARBER IN BEDMINSTER.

HE USED TO PERFORM STUNTS, LIKE BOXING WITH LIONS OR
STANDING IN FRONT OF CIRCUS KNIFE-THROWERS.

IN 1920, HE DECIDED TO GO OVER NIAGARA FALLS IN A WOODEN
BARREL. TWO PEOPLE HAD DONE THIS ALREADY AND SURVIVED BUT
CHARLIE WAS NOT SO LUCKY.

HIS BARREL WAS SMASHED TO PIECES ON THE ROCKS. AFTERWARDS,
ALL THAT WAS FOUND OF HIM WAS HIS TATTOOED RIGHT ARM.



NIPPER THE DOG WAS BORN IN 1884.

HIS OWNER WORKED AT THE PRINCE'S THEATRE IN BRISTOL.

HIS OWNER'S BROTHER PAINTED A PICTURE OF NIPPER CALLED
'HIS MASTER'S VOICE'. IT SHOWED NIPPER LISTENING TO A
PHONOGRAPH — AN EARLY TYPE OF RECORD PLAYER.

THE PICTURE WAS USED TO ADVERTISE THE GRAMOPHONE
COMPANY. THE COMPANY LATER CHANGED ITS NAME TO HIS
MASTER'S VOICE. THIS IS NOW KNOWN AS HMV.

NIPPER GOT HIS NAME BECAUSE HE USED TO BITE
PEOPLE'S ANKLES.

DOROTHY HODGKIN WAS A SCIENTIST.

SHE WAS BORN IN EGYPT IN 1910 BUT GREW UP IN ENGLAND.

SHE SET UP HER FIRST LABORATORY WHEN SHE WAS TEN. IT WAS IN
HER BEDROOM. SHE IS THE ONLY BRITISH WOMAN TO HAVE WON A
NOBEL PRIZE FOR SCIENCE. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIZE A
SCIENTIST CAN WIN.

FROM 1970 TO 1988 SHE WAS CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRISTOL (THE MOST SENIOR PERSON THERE). SHE USED HER
POSITION TO HELP STUDENTS.



THERE'S A SPACE FOR ONE MORE INTERESTING
BRISTOLIAN ON THIS PAGE. AND THAT PERSON IS YOU!

DRAW A PICTURE OF YOURSELF AND WRITE A PARAGRAPH
ABOUT WHAT MAKES YOU AN INTERESTING PERSON.



PUZZLES

FILL IN THE GAPS IN THESE WORDS TO MAKE THE NAMES OF SOME OF THE PLACES IN OR NEAR BRISTOL. THEY ARE ALL MENTIONED IN THIS COMIC.

F _ _ H P _ _ D S
B _ _ M _ _ S T _ R
L _ _ D Y _ S L _ _ D
K _ _ G S _ _ _ D
H _ _ T C _ _ F _ E
B _ S _ _ P _ T _ N
C _ _ F _ O _
S _ W _ _ B _ _ G H _
K _ _ S T _ _ M _ N _ R
R _ D _ _ I F F _

MATCH THE NAMES OF THESE PEOPLE WITH WHAT THEY DID.

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR
CELIA FIENNES
DOROTHY HODGKIN
VINCENT
HANNAH MORE
PAUL STEPHENSON
JAMES MILLERD
DOROTHY HAZZARD
MARY BAKER
BLACKBEARD
CHARLIE STEPHENS
SIR JOHN HARINGTON
AMELIA EDWARDS

CAME TO BRISTOL IN 1698.
LED A BOYCOTT.
WAS A PIRATE.
INVENTED A TOILET.
PRETENDED TO BE A PRINCESS.
DREW A MAP OF BRISTOL.
FOUGHT LIONS.
WROTE ABOUT SLAVERY.
INVADED BRITAIN.
SET UP A LABORATORY.
WENT TO EGYPT.
DUG THE AVON GORGE.
STARTED A CHURCH.

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