

Highlights

A Bigger Digger

Bagger 288 is one of the largest machines in the world.

Bagger 288 is a giant digging machine. It can move enough dirt in one day to fill 96 Olympic swimming pools. A typical digging machine working eight hours a day, seven days a week would take more than 10 months to do the same job.

The machine was built in 1978 to mine coal for electrical power in Germany, and it's still going strong. It's one of the world's biggest machines. Here's how it works.

5. Bucket Arm

It moves the bucket wheel into place.

6. Steel Ropes

They support the bucket arm.

7. Conveyor Belt

It carries soil and coal to another conveyor belt in the connecting bridge.

8. Cabin

The person who runs the bucket wheel sits in here.

9. Bucket Wheel

As the wheel turns, its 18 buckets dig nonstop.

1. Connecting Bridge

It swings side to side to pour the material into a loading wagon.

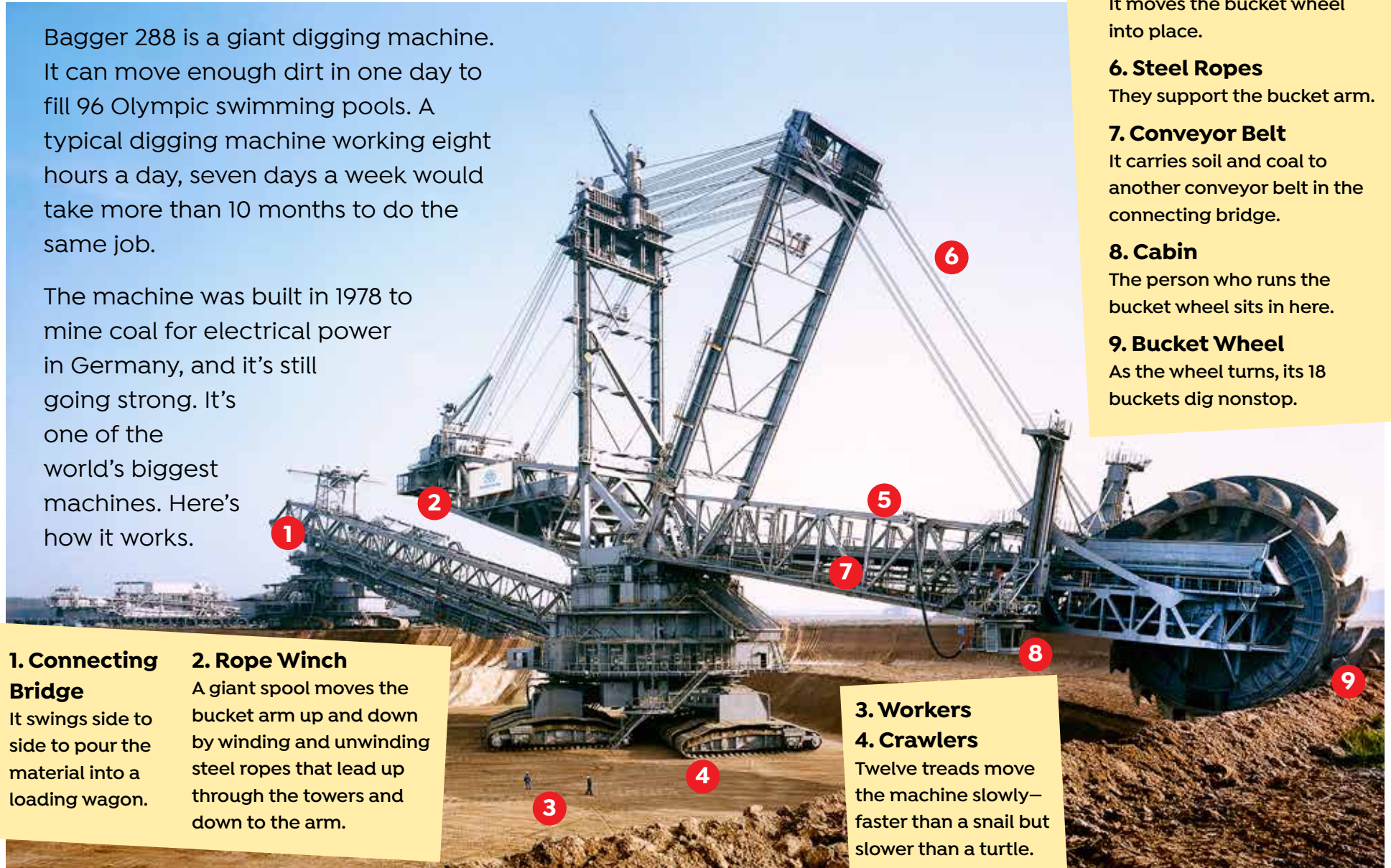
2. Rope Winch

A giant spool moves the bucket arm up and down by winding and unwinding steel ropes that lead up through the towers and down to the arm.

3. Workers

4. Crawlers

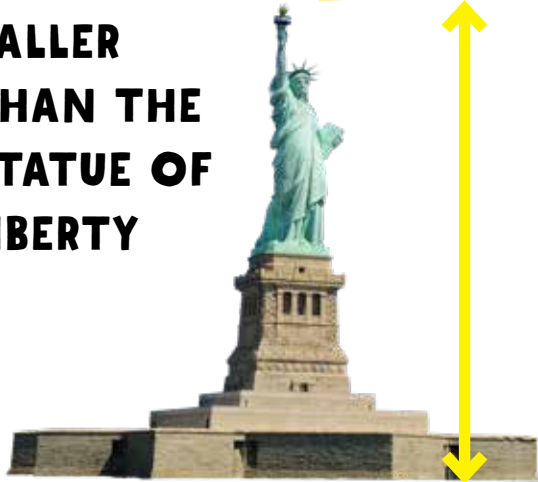
Twelve treads move the machine slowly—faster than a snail but slower than a turtle.



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HOW BIG IS IT?

**TALLER
THAN THE
STATUE OF
LIBERTY**



**LONGER
THAN 2 FOOTBALL
FIELDS**



EACH BUCKET CAN FILL



**22
BATHTUBS**

**HEAVIER
THAN
4
APOLLO
MOON
ROCKETS**



**DRIVES THE
BUCKET
WHEEL WITH
AS MUCH
POWER AS
13
PICKUP
TRUCKS**