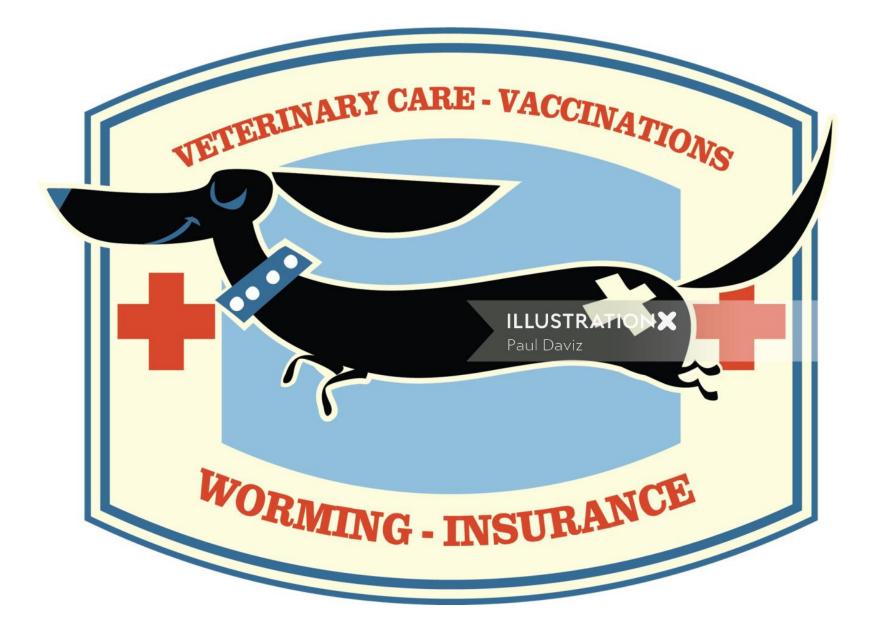
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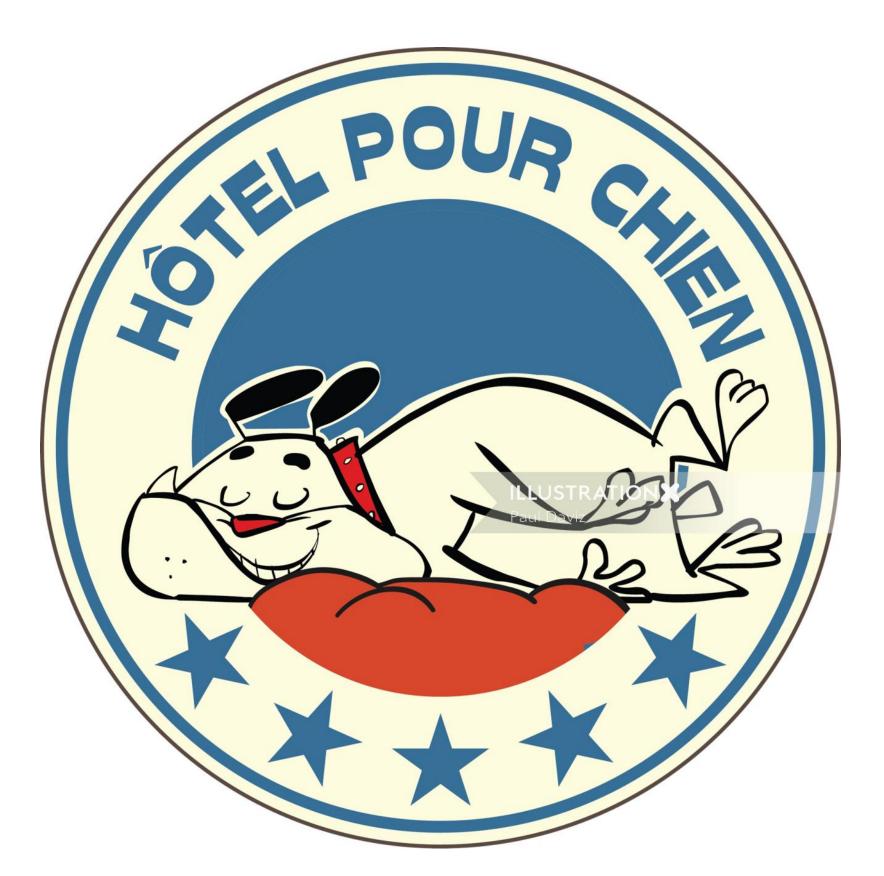
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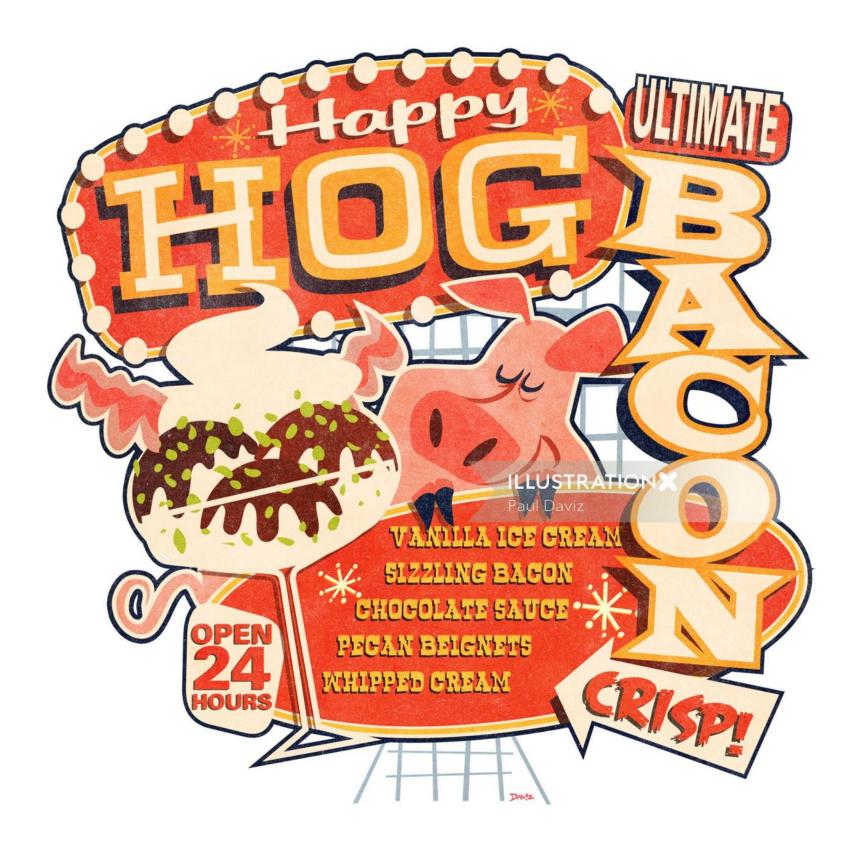
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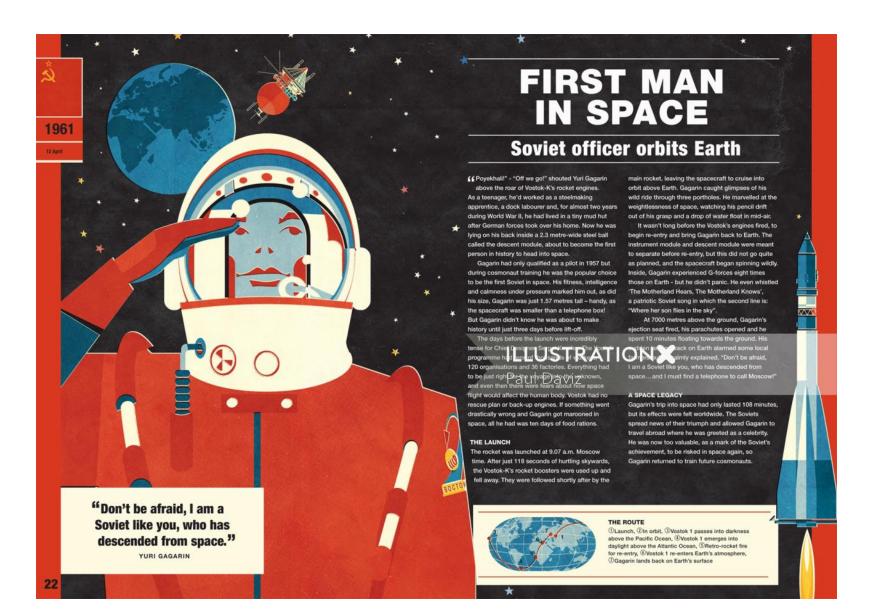
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PREPARING FOR SPACE Further tough trials awaited astronauts on the **ASTRONAUTS** 2 ground. Complicated machines whizzed the trainees round to mimic the extreme gravity, known as G-force, they could expect during Some of the training tried to mimic the likely effects of the conditions in space. Cosmonauts spent 10–15 days alone in an isolation chamber, WANTED while NASA astronauts spent hours in dark, soundproof water tanks. The NASA recruits also took rides in aircraft that climbed and dived sharply space travel. One US machine known as 'the wheel' was particularly despised, with astronauts calling it "a gruesome 1959 1959 merry-go-round". Astronauts were strapped inside a ball on a long arm and to produce short spells of weightlessness. Astronauts sometimes felt sick on these training flights, which became known as 'vomit comets'. Space traveller training begins spun at over 200 kilometres per hour. As a result they experienced 8–15 times the gravity felt on Earth and A fter the animals, it was time for humans in Aspace. Both sides started selecting candidates in 1959. Early spacecraft were small, so astronauts needed to be small as well. The USA only selected found it hard to see or breathe. WOMEN IN SPACE WANTED In 1960-61, 13 American women between the ages of 23 and 41 were trained and teste in similar ways to the Mercury Seven. They performed well but were not selected for spaceflights. The Soviets added five women to its cosmonaut team in 1963, while the first American female astronaut, Sally Ride, wouldn't reach space until 1983. SPACE PIONEERS candidates under 1.81 metres tall, less than 82 kilograms and under the age of 40. Soviet Must be smart, short-ish, young, cosmonauts had to be less than 1.7 metres and brave and prepared to push yourself to the limit... and beyond. under the age of 30. Jet fighter pilot qualification required. THE FIRST ASTRONAUTS NASA's first astronauts were all military test pilots, as these men were used to high speed and massive G-forces from their work testing fast jet aircraft. More than 500 test pilots applied. After lots of tests and medical examinations they were whittled down, first to 110 applicants, then to 32, then finally the Mercury Seven were introduced to the world in April 1959. The Soviets also selected pilots as their 20 cosmonaut candidates, half a dozen of whom were chosen as contenders for the first mission and known as the Vanguard Six. TOUGH TRAINING All trainee astronauts underwent long periods of intense training. They were drilled hard for peak physical fitness and constantly tested to see if physical fitness and constantly tested to see if they could stay calm and perform under pressure. They had to study hard - taking courses on astronomy, medicine, physics, mechanics and rocketry, as well as learning how every part of their spacecraft worked. As part of their training, the Mercury Seven - along with a replica of their spacecraft - were dumped in the Nevada desort for four days, to practise their survival skills. The Soviet cosmonauts also endured touch survival training that involved "15G was our limit on the wheel and it was no fun at all." APOLLO 11 ASTRONAUT MICHAEL COLLINS also endured tough survival training that involved roasting in superheated saunas before plunging into icy water. Each cosmonaut also made around 50 parachute jumps, on land and in water. 18

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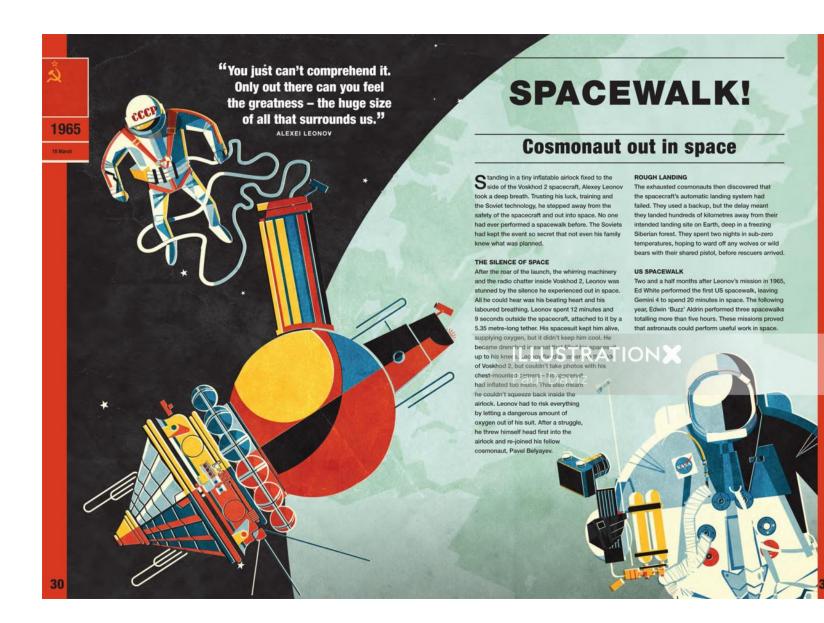
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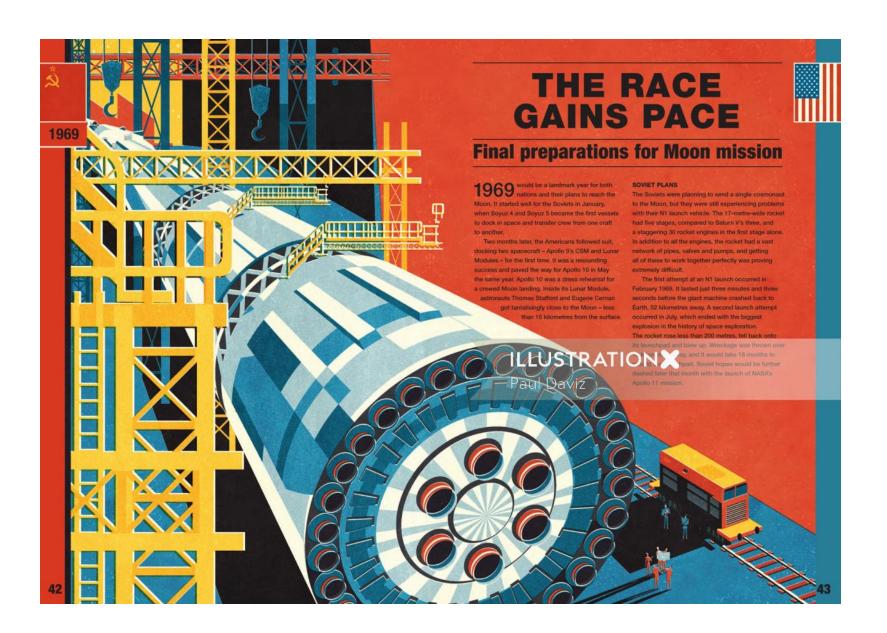
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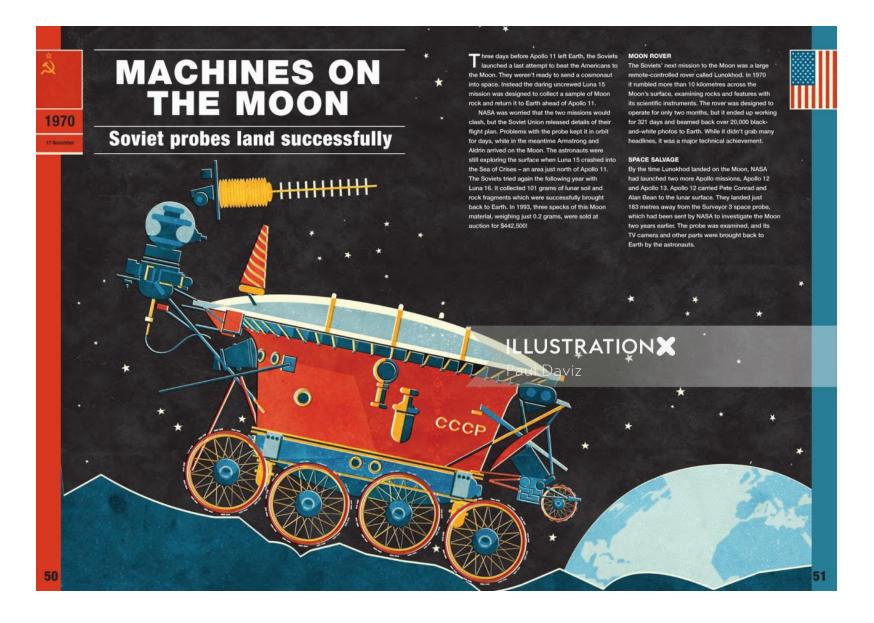
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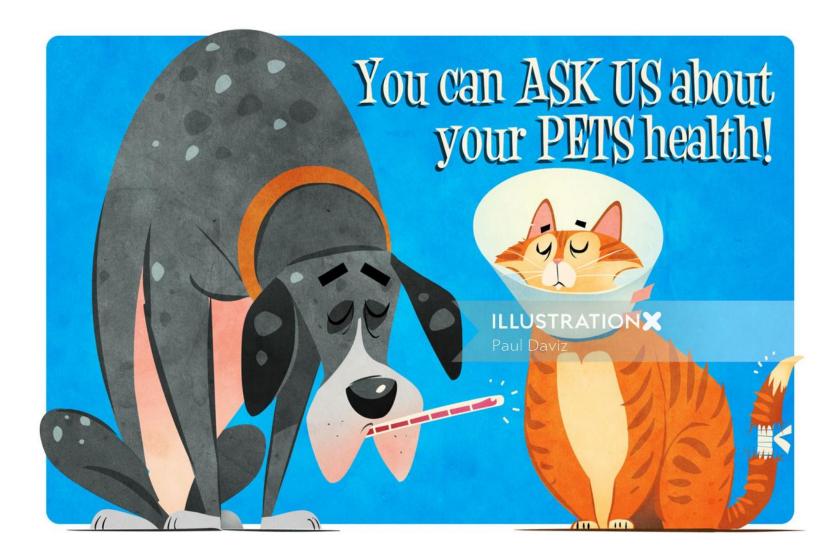
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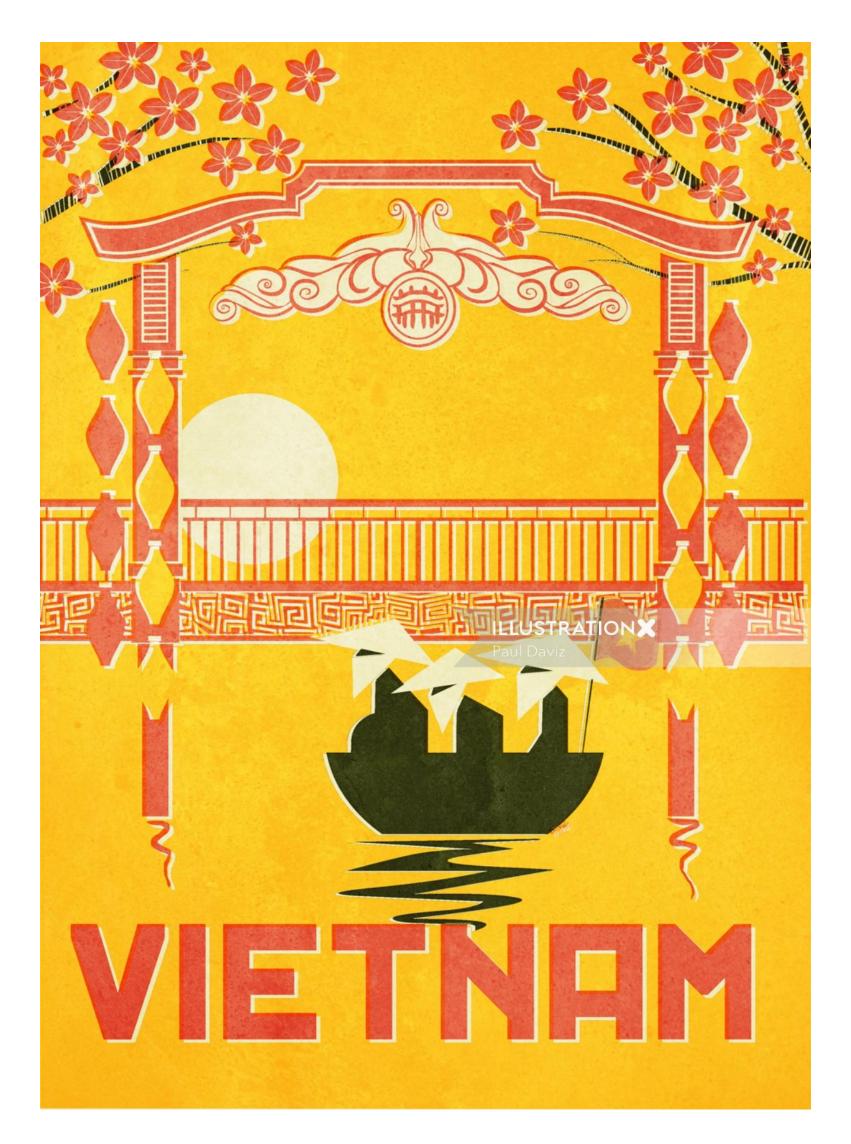
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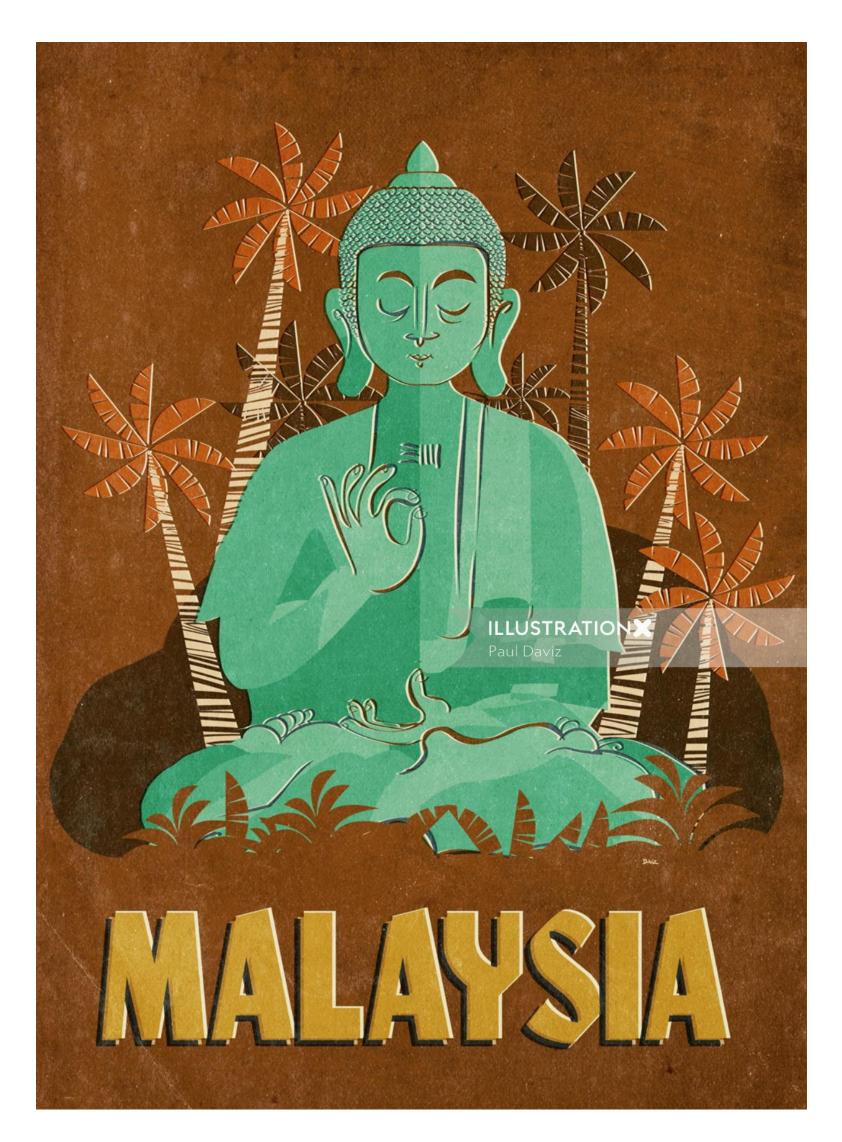
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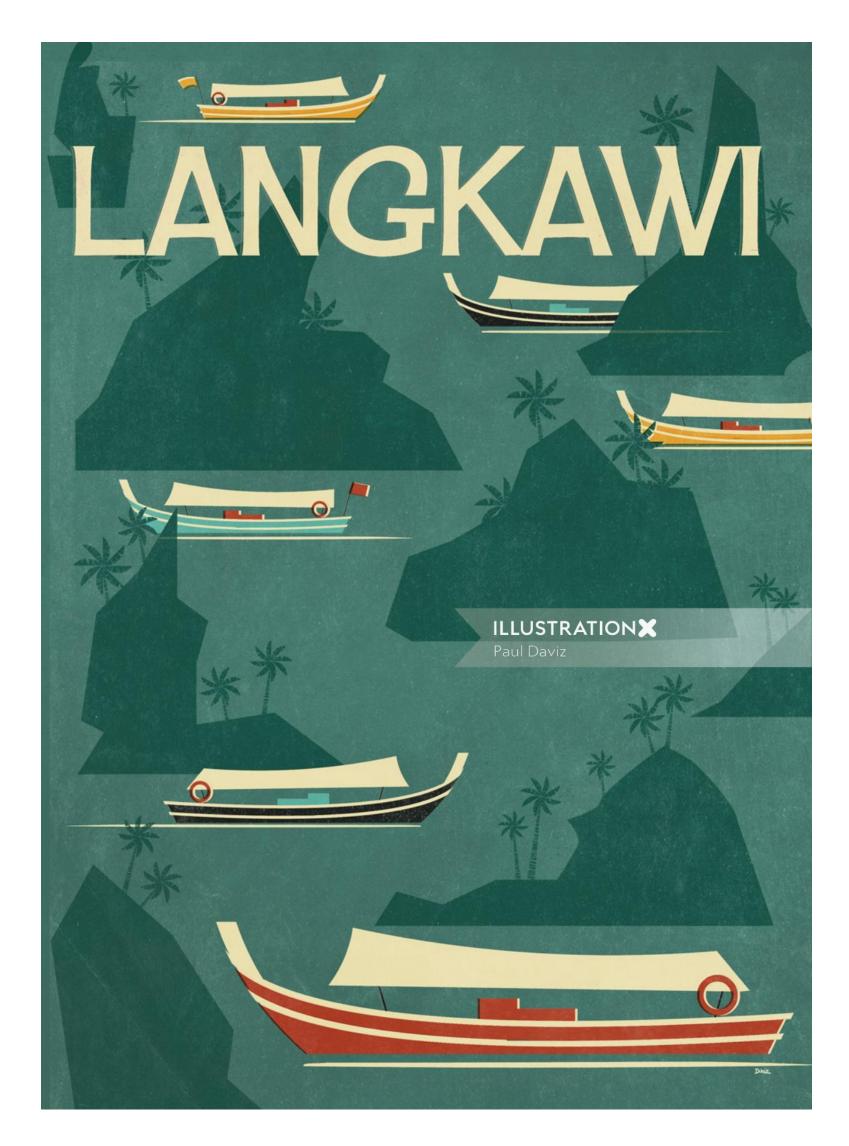
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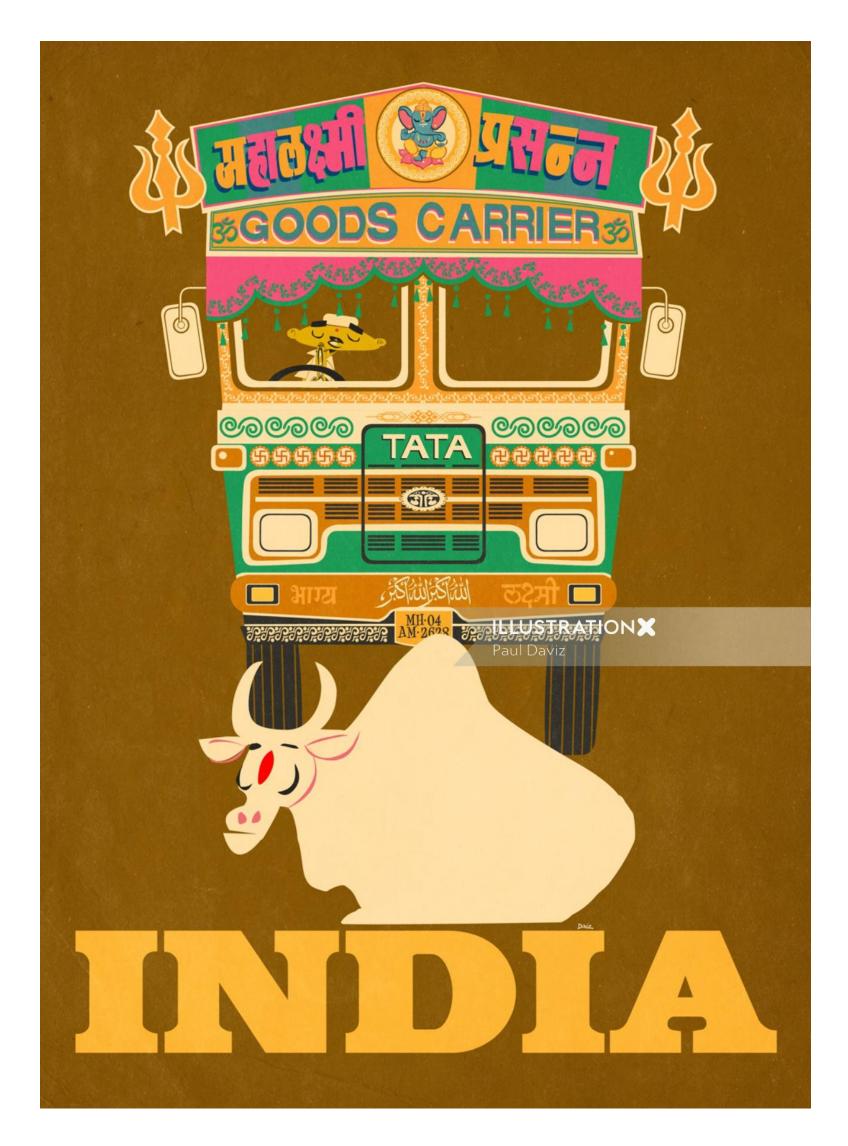
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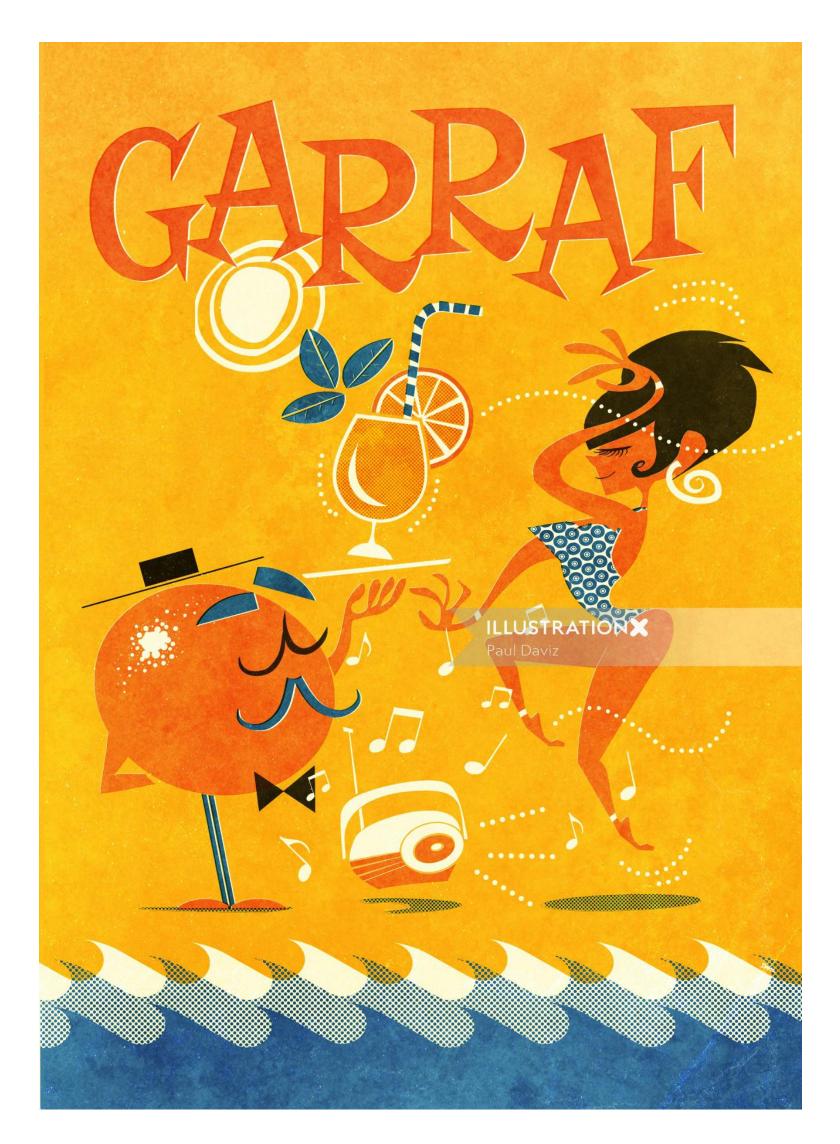
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