**Strange but True! – Activity 2**

*Read these extracts from Strange but True! Write a heading for each that uses a modal verb. Underline the modal verb in your heading. Which other modal verbs would have the same meaning? Which other modal verbs would make sense, but change the meaning? Write a new heading for each one with a different modal verb.*

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| **Modal Verbs** | |  |
| might  would  will  shall | may  can  could | |

A chance discovery of a hidden pit in Xian, China led to an incredible find – nearly 8,000 life-size soldiers sculpted 2,200 years ago. Called the Terracotta army, these clay figures were crafted to protect the tomb of China’s First Emperor, Qin Shi Huang.

Turkey’s ancient underground caves of Cappadocia were once inhabited cities. Steep, hollowed hillsides mask a secret subterranean world. The deepest city, Derinkuyu is about 85 metres deep with a network of floors and tunnels to deter would-be invaders.

The Moai sculptures on Easter Island are testament to the extraordinary capabilities of the ancient Polynesians because they were difficult to construct and tough to transport around Easter Island. There are 887 statues all of them male. Most experts believe the Moai were meant to honour the spirits of deceased ancestors, existing chiefs, or others special to the Polynesians but nothing has been proven.

The school run is a challenge in some parts of the world. These pupils must walk for two hours each day to attend their school in the mountains of Bije, Guizhou Province, China. As well as passing through narrow tunnels in the rock, they must negotiate this treacherous cliff path, which is just 0.5m wide.

Tomatoes are weapons of war at the annual La Tomatina, the messiest date on Spain’s festival calendar. This celebratory fruit-fest is now the world’s biggest food fight. Armed with an endless supply of squashed tomatoes, thousands of participants prepare for pelting!

Since 1950 the world’s biggest annual celebration of snow has caused flurries of excitement at Sapporo in Japan. More than 2.4 million visitors descend on the city to wonder at the snow sculptures and toast the winner of the coolest competition around.

Maho Beach is no peaceful paradise. Its blue skies are overshadowed by low-flying jets, while the crashing Caribbean surf is drowned out by roaring engines. With the runway just metres from the sand, thrill seekers and plane spotters can experience extreme encounters with aircraft every single day.

Google Maps has been providing Google Street View online since 2007. The panoramic views it provides are made of still photographs, often captured by a car-mounted camera. But the Liwa Desert in the United Arab Emirates is not the average street view. These sprawling dunes needed a unique photographer, and an animal already adapted to desert life was the obvious choice.

Climber extraordinaire Alain Robert has reached the summit of the world’s tallest buildings, often using just a pair of climbing shoes and his bare hands. Some of his stunts have been authorised, but he has also been arrested many times for scaling buildings without permission.