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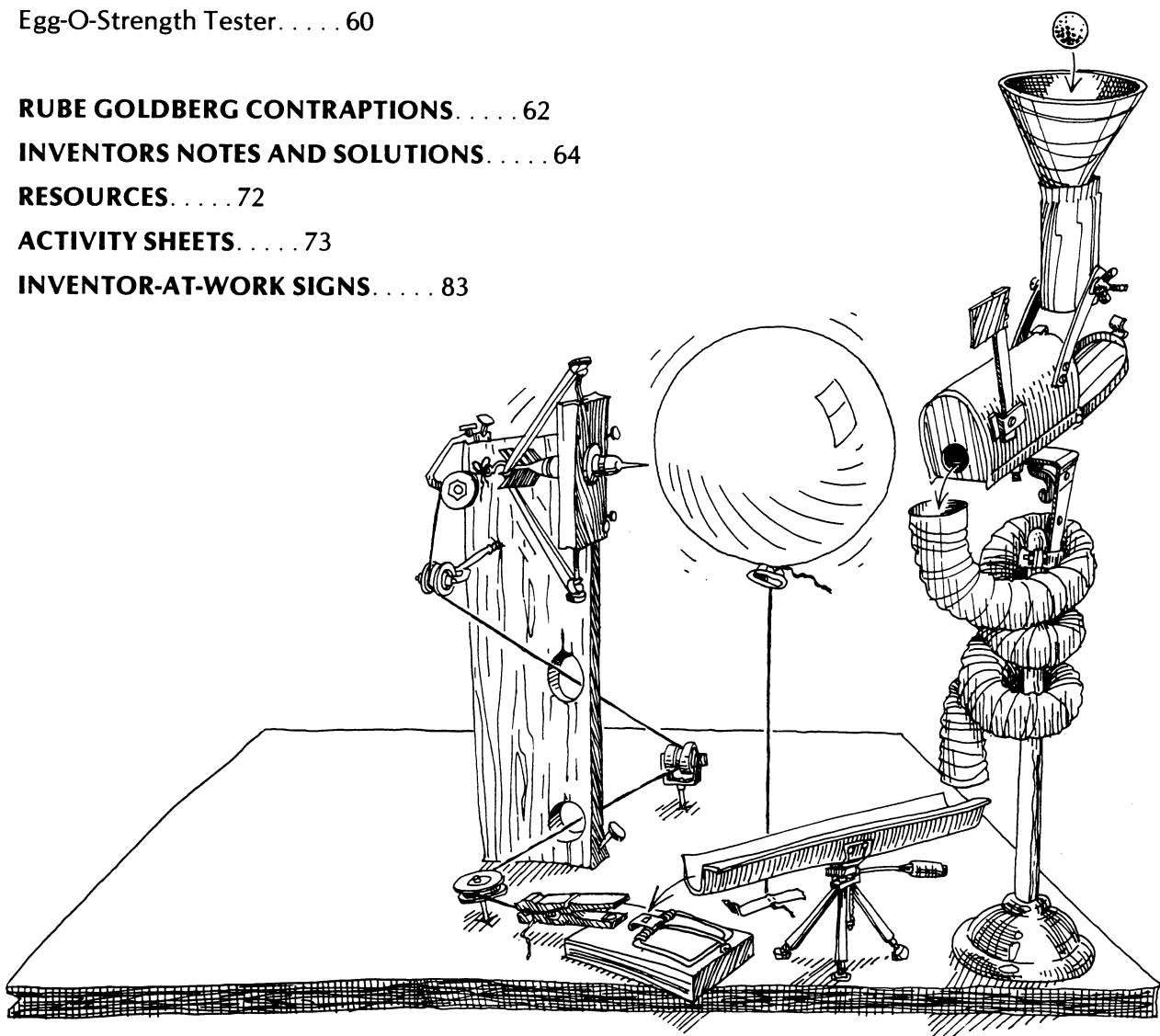
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1

Turning on Inventiveness

This introductory chapter provides a number of activities that will help kids limber up their creative skills and prepare them for work in the *Inventors Workshop*. Corresponding activity sheets appear in the back of the book. They are cross-referenced so that you can find them easily, and they may be duplicated for personal or classroom use.

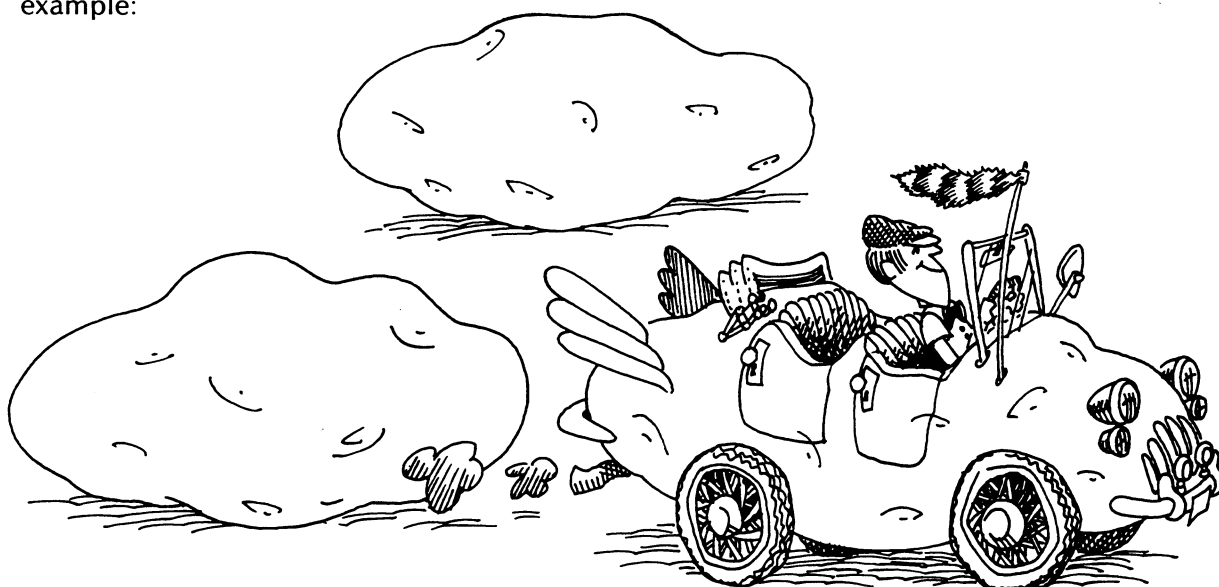


Potato Possibilities

There can be a lot more to potatoes than mashed potato, potato cakes, and chips. Leave it to the imagination of kids and their ability to see the unusual in the usual — potatoes can become some very astonishing things! Here are two introductory exercises that will turn the ordinary potato into an extraordinary experience.

■ NEW AND UNUSUAL POTATOES

The activity sheet on page 73 features four drawings of potatoes — plain, old potatoes. It's the responsibility of an inventive kid to transform those potatoes into something very different — something never before conceived in a potato. Here's an example:



■ POTATO FANTASY TRIP

Seeing things in the mind's eye is essential to the invention process. One way for kids to practise such thinking in pictures is to take a guided fantasy trip. Here's how it's done:

PROCEDURE

1. While you close your eyes and concentrate, have someone read the following out loud to you. The room should be quiet during the fantasy journey, and the reader should pause for about 5 seconds at each series of dots.

Close your eyes and relax. . . . Imagine you are looking at a large white wall. . . . Try to see a huge brown potato on the wall. . . . Notice the bumps and dents on the potato. . . . Now imagine touching its skin — how does it