How a Wind Farm Gets Built

Four printable pages from the world of The Big Lift, a coloring and activity book that follows the real order a wind farm gets built. Free to copy for your class.

How Big Is It?

Measurement and comparing sizes. One blade on a big turbine is about as long as six school buses lined up, and longer than a blue whale.

- Pace out one bus length in the hallway or on the playground, then try six.
- Ask: what is the longest thing you have ever seen?

Cables Underground

Energy and systems. Every turbine needs a path for its electricity. A trencher cuts a skinny ditch and the crew lays cables deep underground. A wind farm can have many miles of buried cable.

- Ask: where does the electricity in your house come from?
- Ask: what else is hidden under our streets?

Who Fixes the Turbine?

Careers. Wind techs climb to the top of the tower to check the turbine, and some clip onto ropes to repair a blade. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects wind turbine technician to be the fastest-growing job in the country from 2024 to 2034.

- Students draw their own patch on the tech's tool bag.
- Ask: what job on the crew would you want?

Put the Build in Order

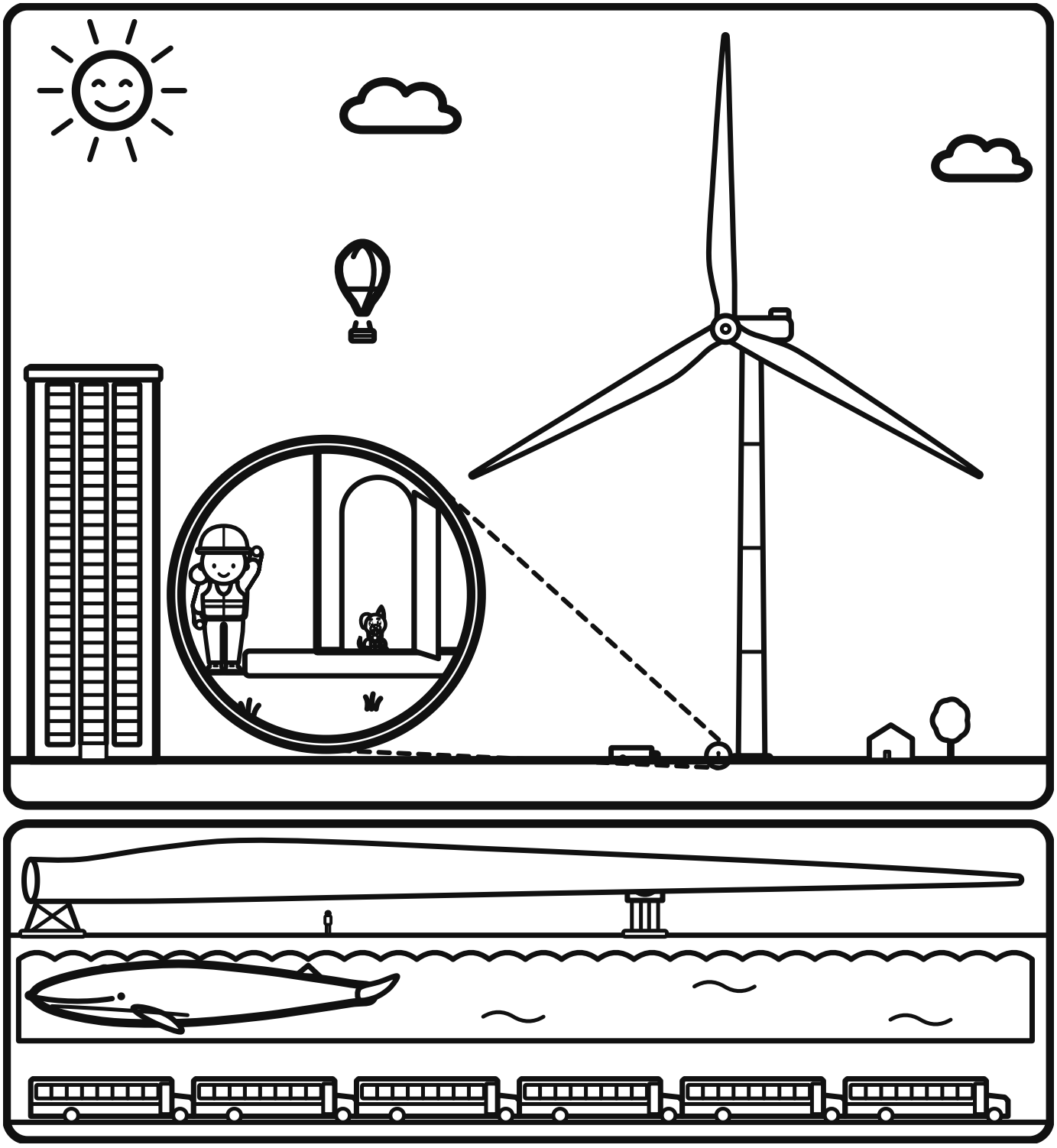
Sequencing. Students number six steps of the build from first to last, then explain one step in their own words.

Answer key: 1 Dig the hole. 2 Tie the steel. 3 Pour the concrete. 4 Stack the tower. 5 Lift the nacelle. 6 Lift the rotor.

Safety first

Real job sites are only for trained crews. Visit only with a guide, in safety gear.

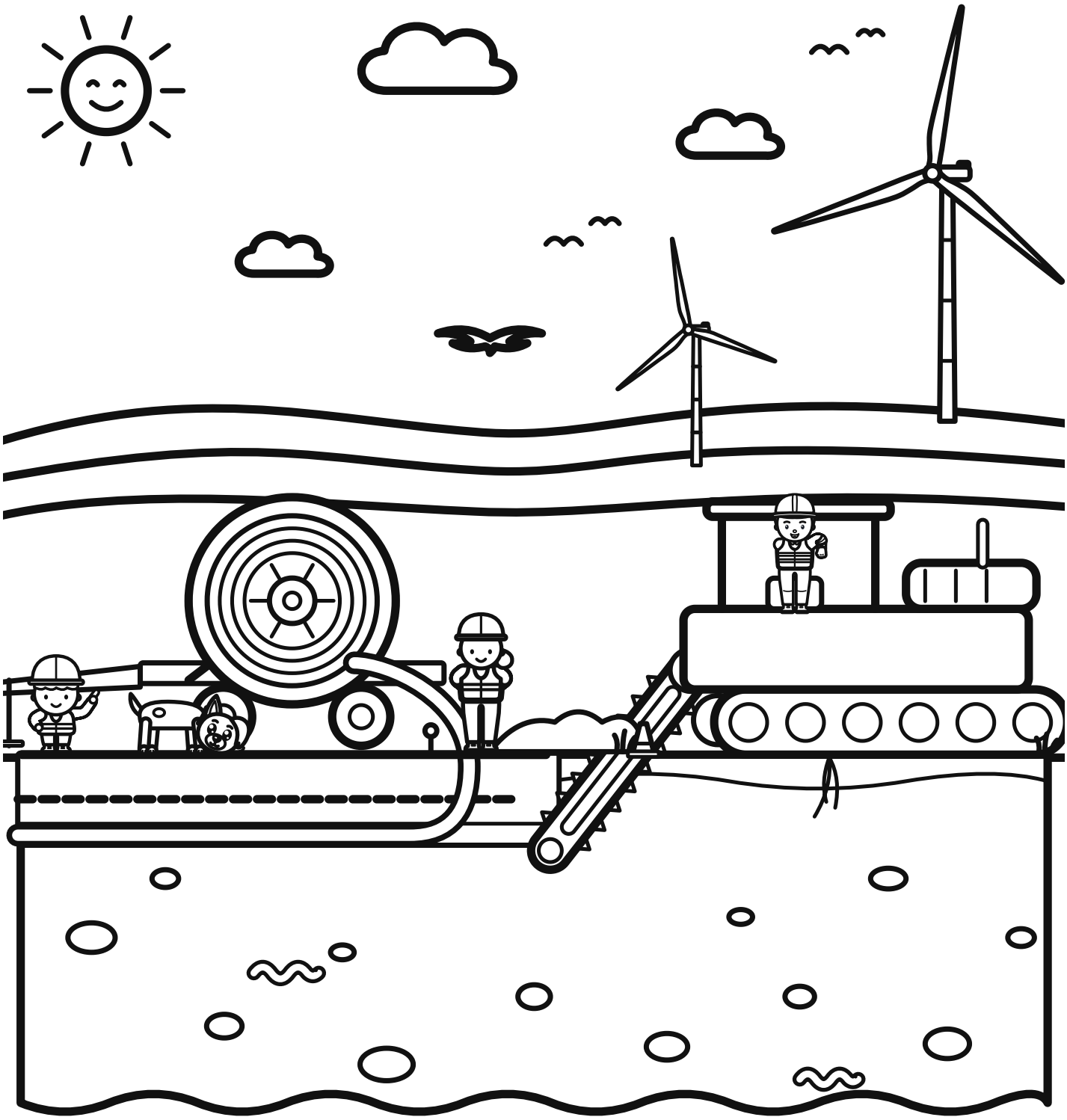
How Big Is It?



One blade is longer than a blue whale!

Fun fact: A single blade on a big turbine is about as long as six school buses lined up.

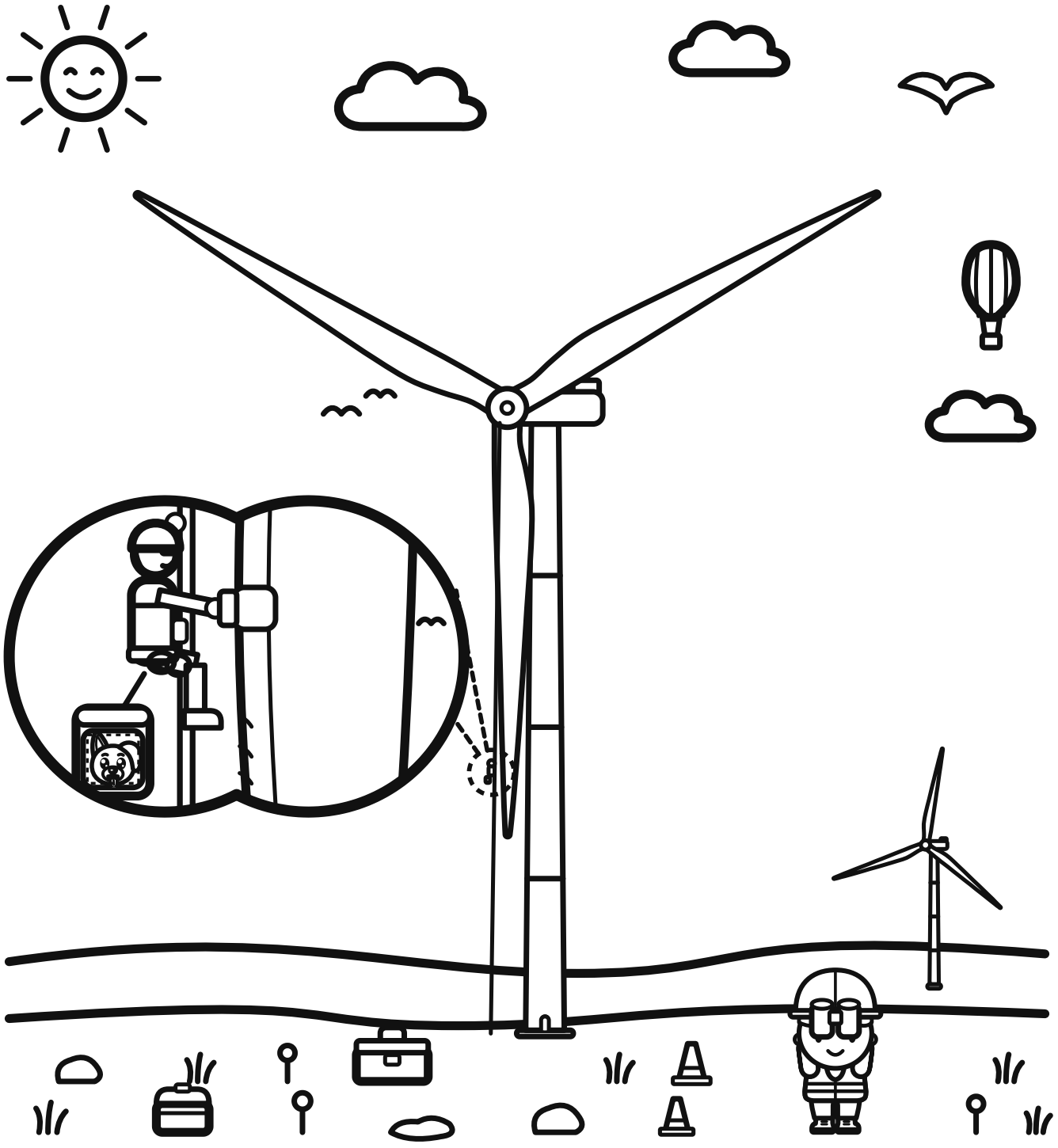
Cables Underground



Every turbine needs a path for its electricity. A trencher cuts a skinny ditch, and the crew lays cables deep underground, like secret roads for power.

Fun fact: A wind farm can have many miles of buried cable.

Who Fixes the Turbine?



Sometimes a blade needs a fix. A wind tech clips onto ropes and goes right over the side to repair it. "That's what I want to be!" says Theo.

Fun fact: Wind turbine tech is the fastest-growing job in the U.S., according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

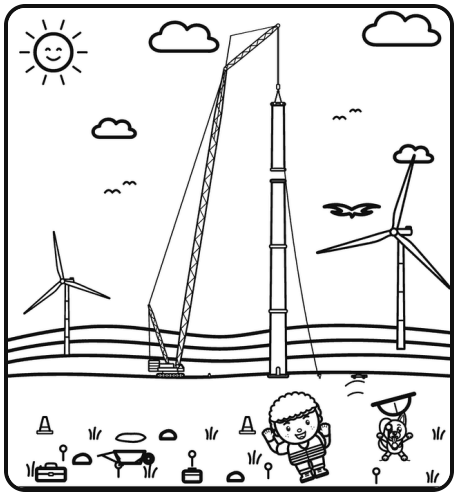
Draw a patch on the tech's tool bag.

CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

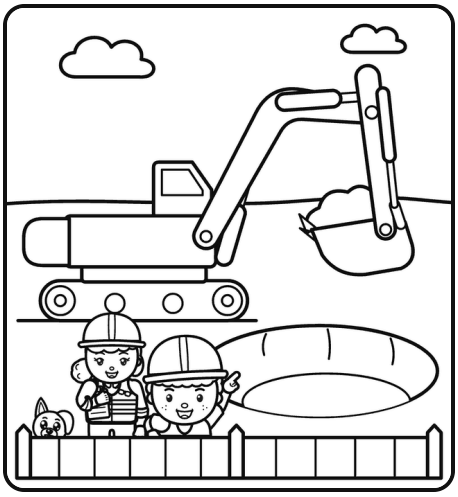
NAME: _____

Put the Build in Order

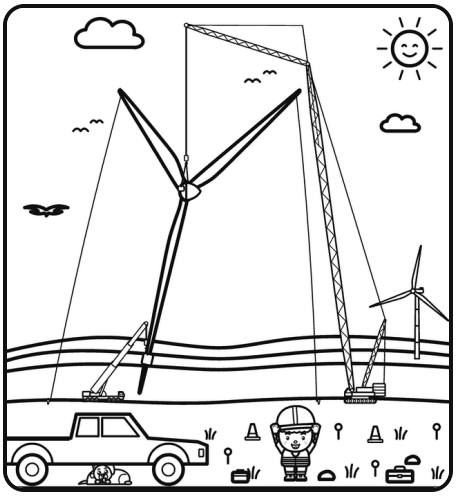
A wind turbine gets built one step at a time. These six pictures are mixed up. Write 1 in the box for what happens first, then 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.



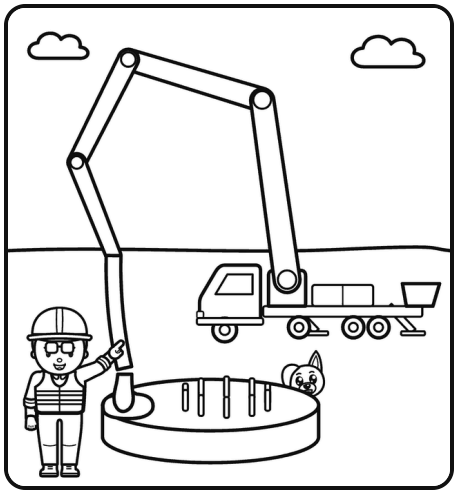
☐ **Stack the tower**



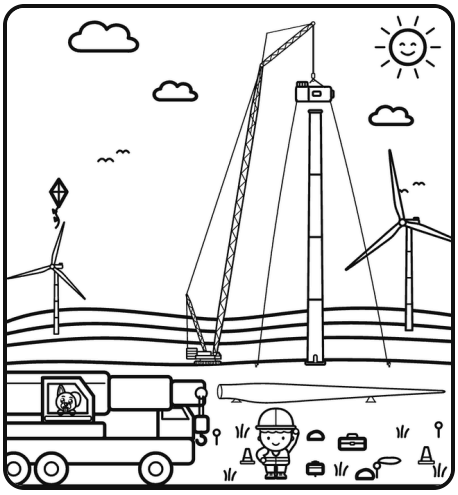
☐ **Dig the hole**



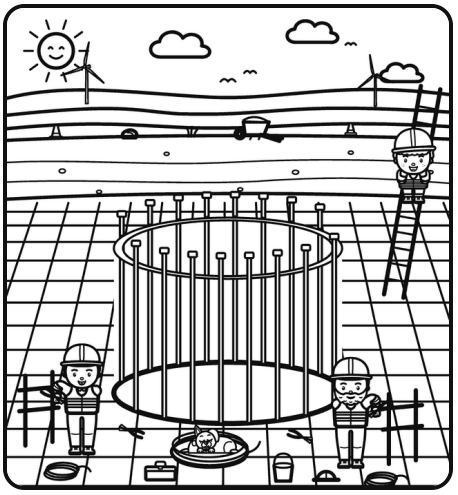
☐ **Lift the rotor**



☐ **Pour the concrete**



☐ **Lift the nacelle**



☐ **Tie the steel**

Why does the concrete have to come before the tower?