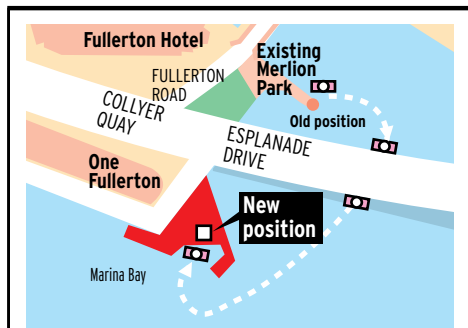


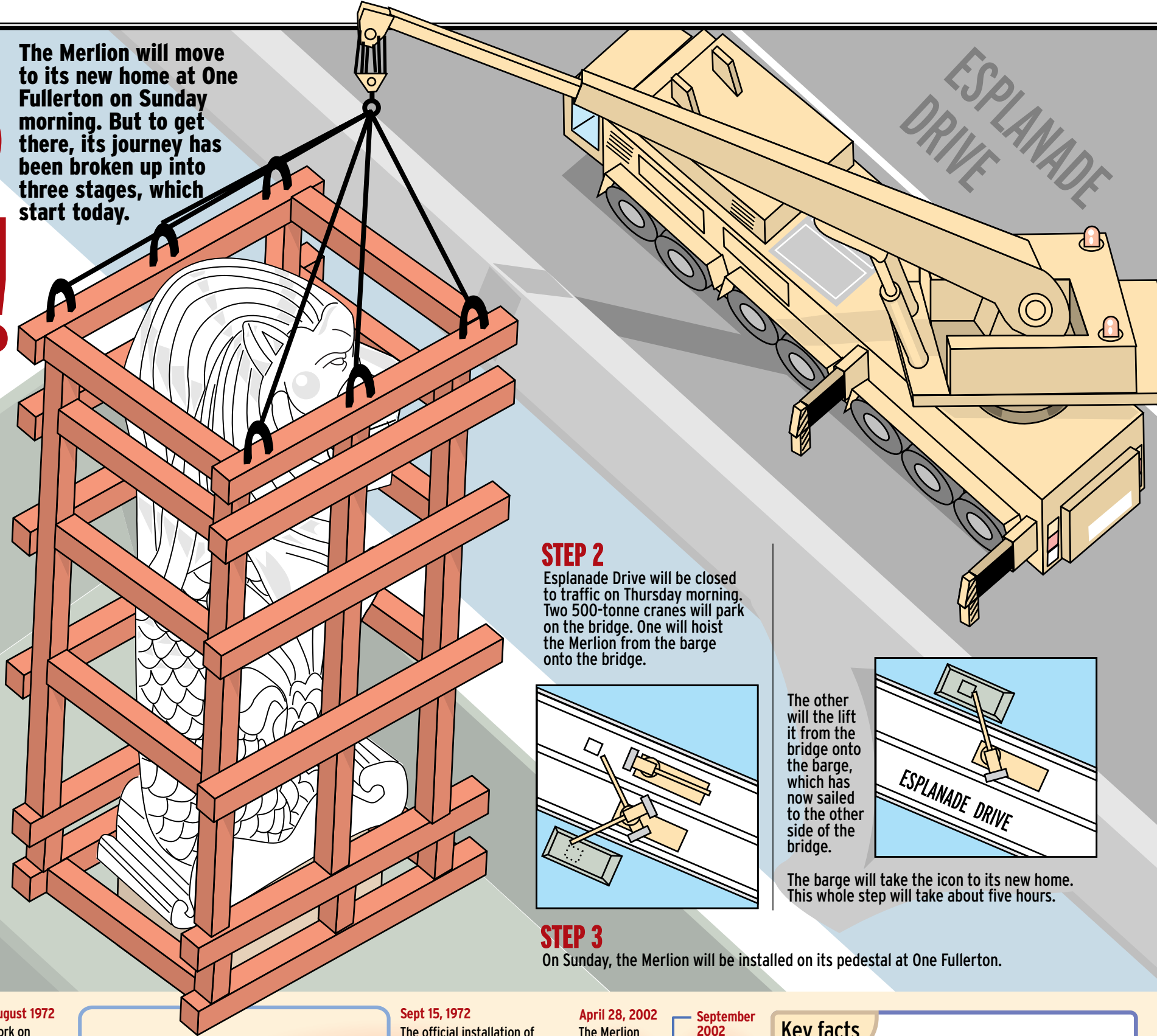
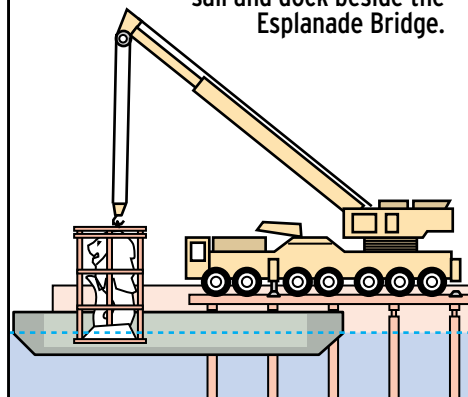
1,2,3 HOIST!

The Merlion will move to its new home at One Fullerton on Sunday morning. But to get there, its journey has been broken up into three stages, which start today.



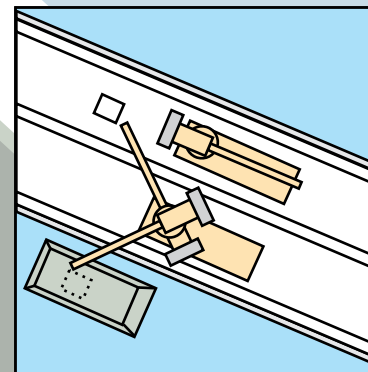
STEP 1

At 9 am today, a crane will lift the Merlion from its current position at Merlion Park onto a barge moored just beside it. The barge will sail and dock beside the Esplanade Bridge.

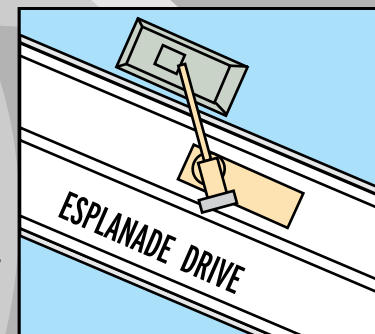


STEP 2

Esplanade Drive will be closed to traffic on Thursday morning. Two 500-tonne cranes will park on the bridge. One will hoist the Merlion from the barge onto the bridge.



The other will lift it from the bridge onto the barge, which has now sailed to the other side of the bridge.



The barge will take the icon to its new home. This whole step will take about five hours.

STEP 3

On Sunday, the Merlion will be installed on its pedestal at One Fullerton.

March 26, 1964
Singapore Tourism Board recommends the Merlion be used as its official crest. Mr Fraser Brunner, a member of the Souvenir Committee and curator of the Van Kleef Aquarium, comes up with the design of the crest.

July 20, 1966
Installation of the lion and fish hybrid as a trademark finalised.

August 1972
Work on the statue completed.

September 1972
The official installation of the Merlion at the mouth of the Singapore River by the then Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

November 1971
Work on the statue begins. Local craftsman Lim Nang Seng, winner of several prizes in the Singapore Handicraft and Design competition organised by the then Singapore Tourism Promotion Board (STPB) in 1970, is commissioned to build the statue.

April 28, 2002
The Merlion is installed at its new home.

September 2002
Official opening

Nov 19, 1997
Launching of the organisation's new name and corporate logo without the Merlion symbol. With the Tourism 21 blueprint expanding the STPB's role beyond that of promoting tourism, the board is renamed the Singapore Tourism Board.

1998
The water pump stops working. Restoration work includes putting in two new pumps costing \$200,000 each.

Key facts

- ◆ The Merlion is made up of a lion's head and a fish-like body
- ◆ Height: 8 m
- ◆ Weight: 70 tonnes
- ◆ Cost of the Merlion project: \$165,000
- ◆ How many Merlions are there on this tiny island? There are five merlions in Singapore. Two are located at Merlion Park, and Mount Faber, Sentosa (right) and Tourism Court, off Tanglin Road, have one each.