

The Comic Scoop

Big News, Made Fun



Singapore Loves Its Otters, but the Otters Keep Eating Pet Fish

Ravi is feeding his koi fish at his backyard pond after school.

Dinner time, Goldie!

Wait. Half my fish are gone!

Ravi, I spotted otters by your fence this morning.

Otters?! Like the famous Marina Bay ones?

Those are the ones. They've been entering homes around here.

I watch otter videos every day. They are so cute though!

How can my favourite animal just come and eat my pets?

It's tricky. Do you know how the otters got here?

Ravi and Uncle Seng walked to the park connector near their estate.

They've always been in Singapore, right?

Smooth-coated otters nearly vanished here by the 1970s.

They nearly vanished? Why?

The rivers were too polluted for them to survive.

Once waterways were restored, otters returned to Singapore naturally.

In 1977, the government launched a campaign to clean up the Singapore River.

1977 → Today

They came back all by themselves? That's amazing!

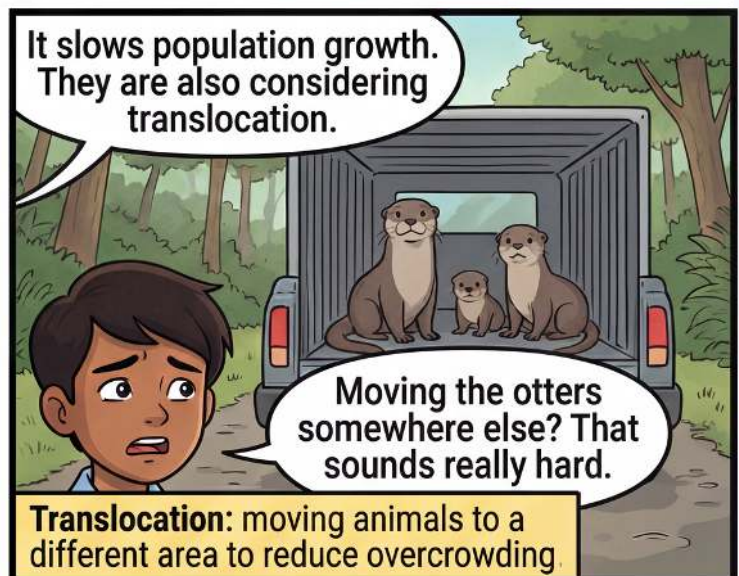
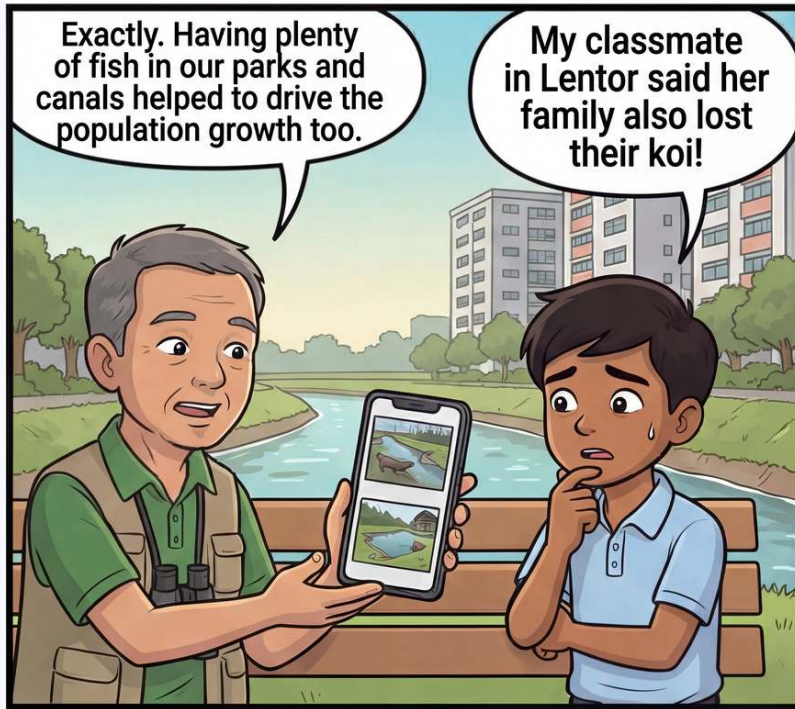
It gets better. Their numbers more than doubled after that.

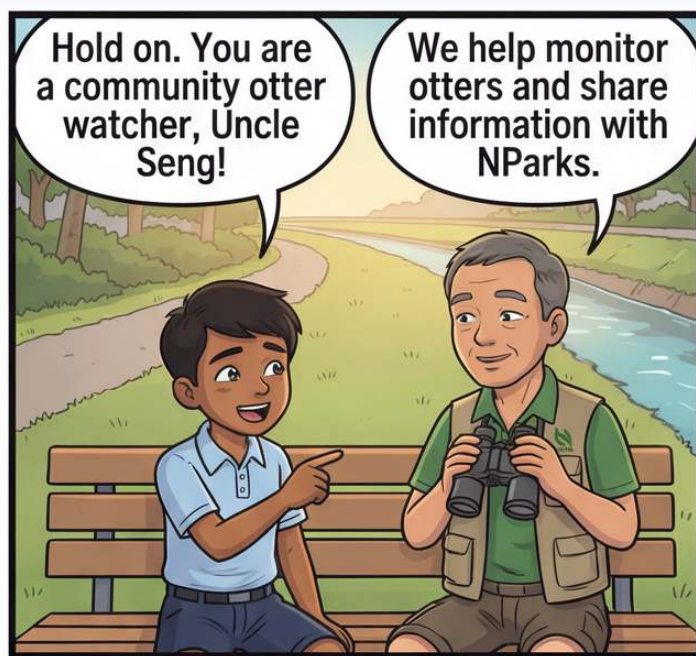
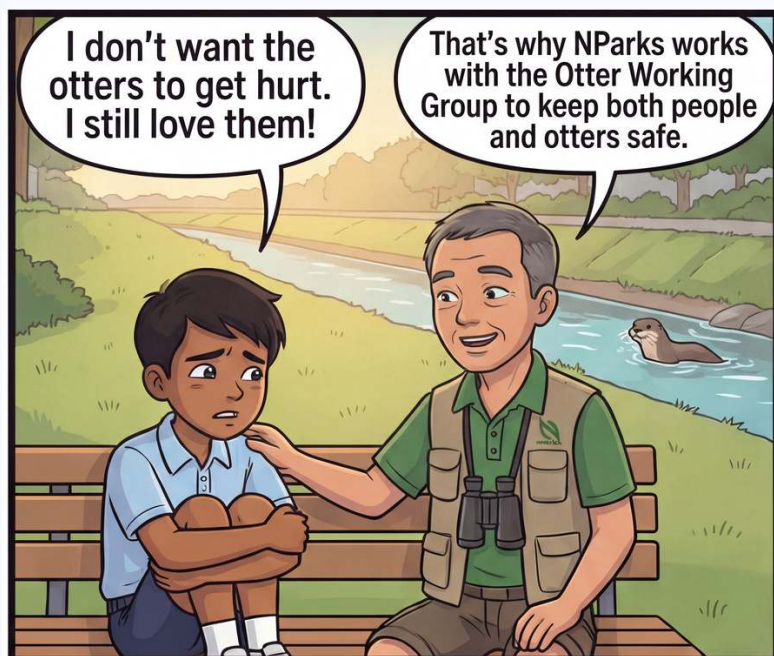
The population grew from about 80 in 2017 to 170 by 2021.

2017: ~80

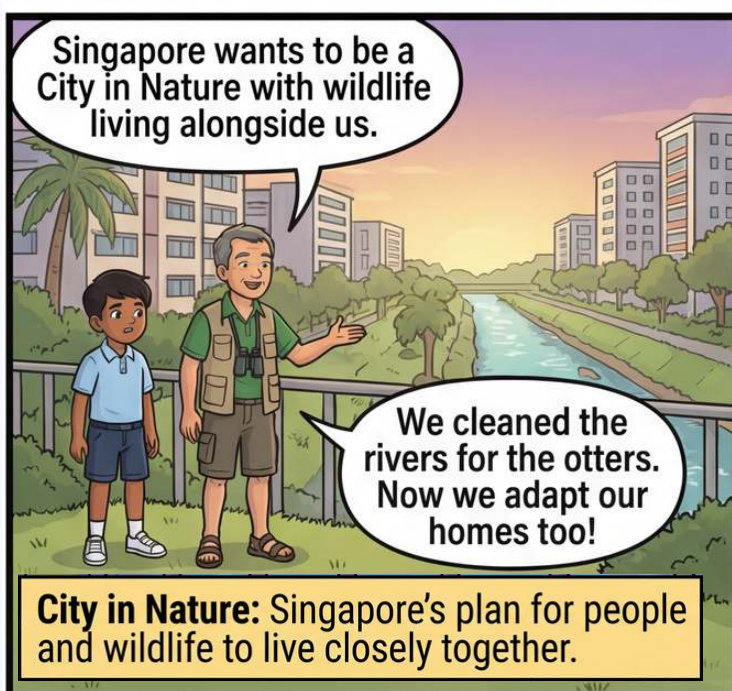
2021: ~170

My teacher said otters have zero natural predators here!





Ravi and Uncle Seng returned to Ravi's pond.

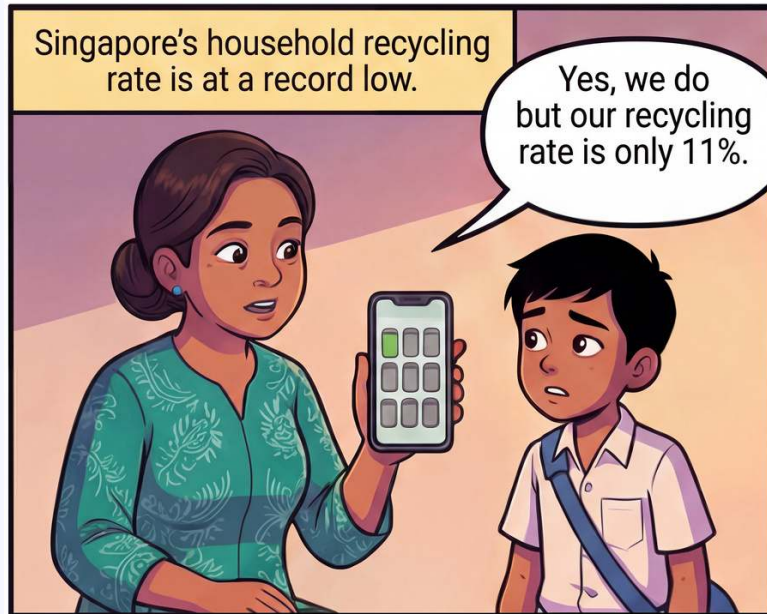


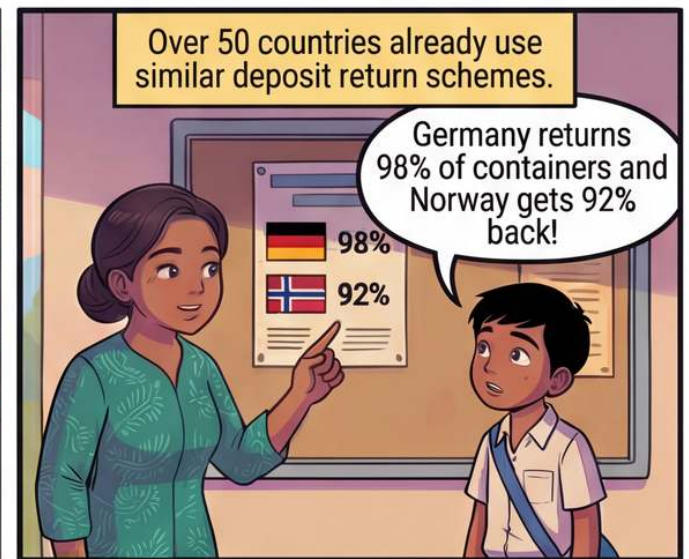
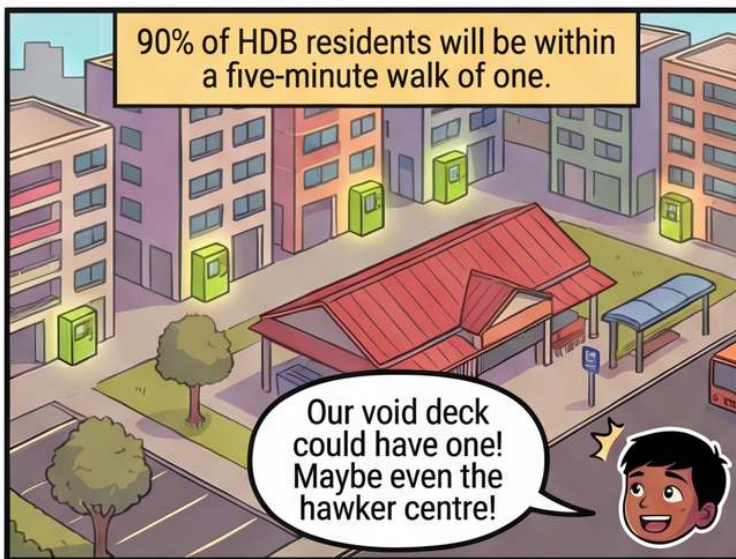
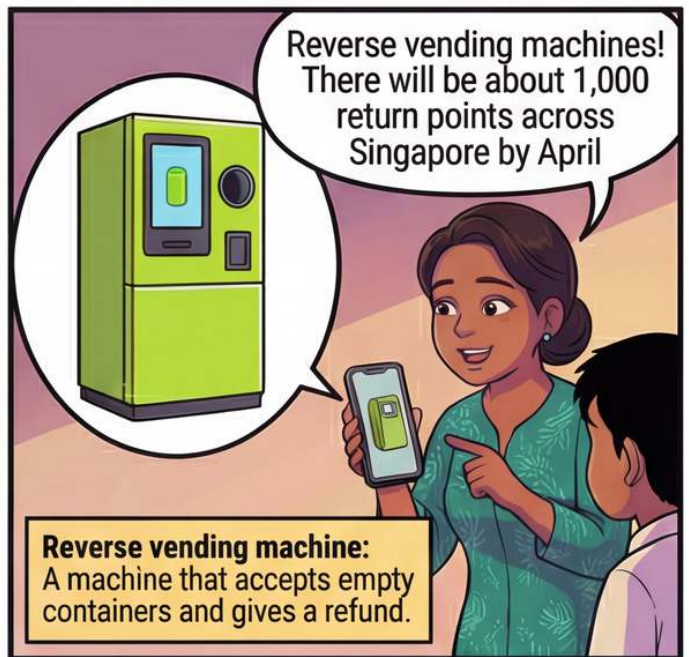
💡 **Think!**

What should we do if we see an otter in the wild?

How a -Cent Deposit Is Changing Recycling in Singapore

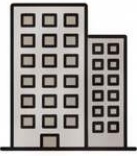






Think

If every student in your school returns just one can a day, how many cans will that be in a year?

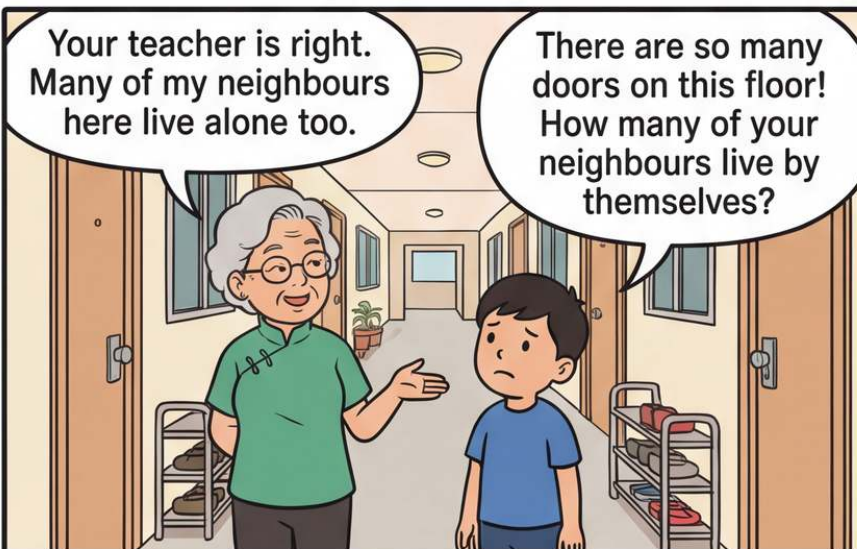
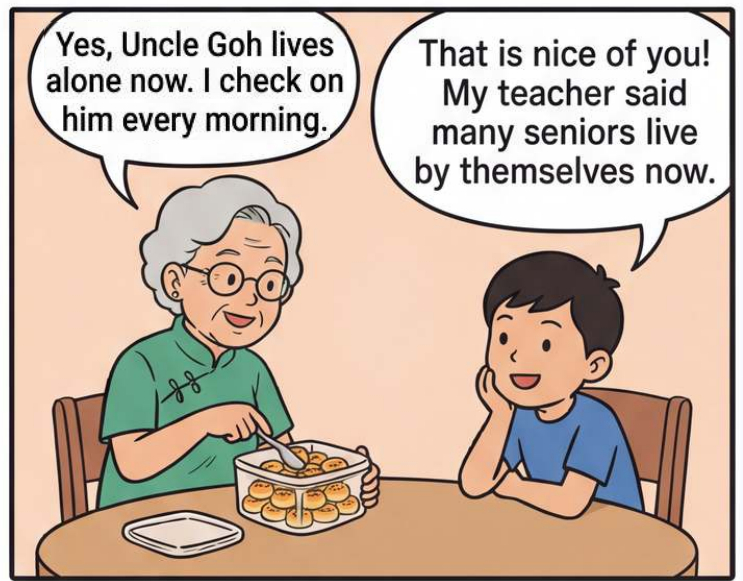
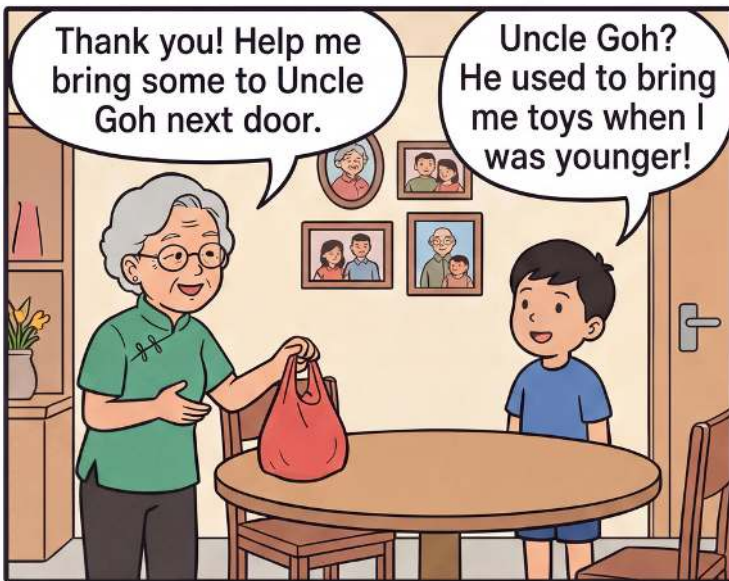


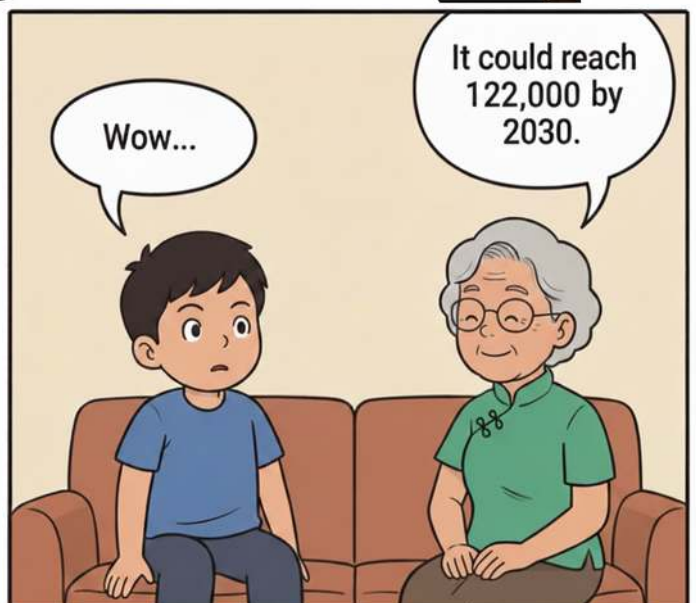
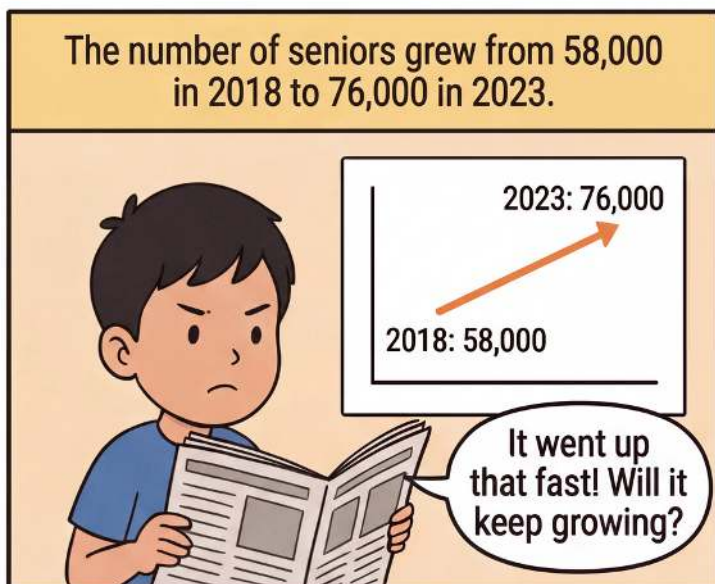
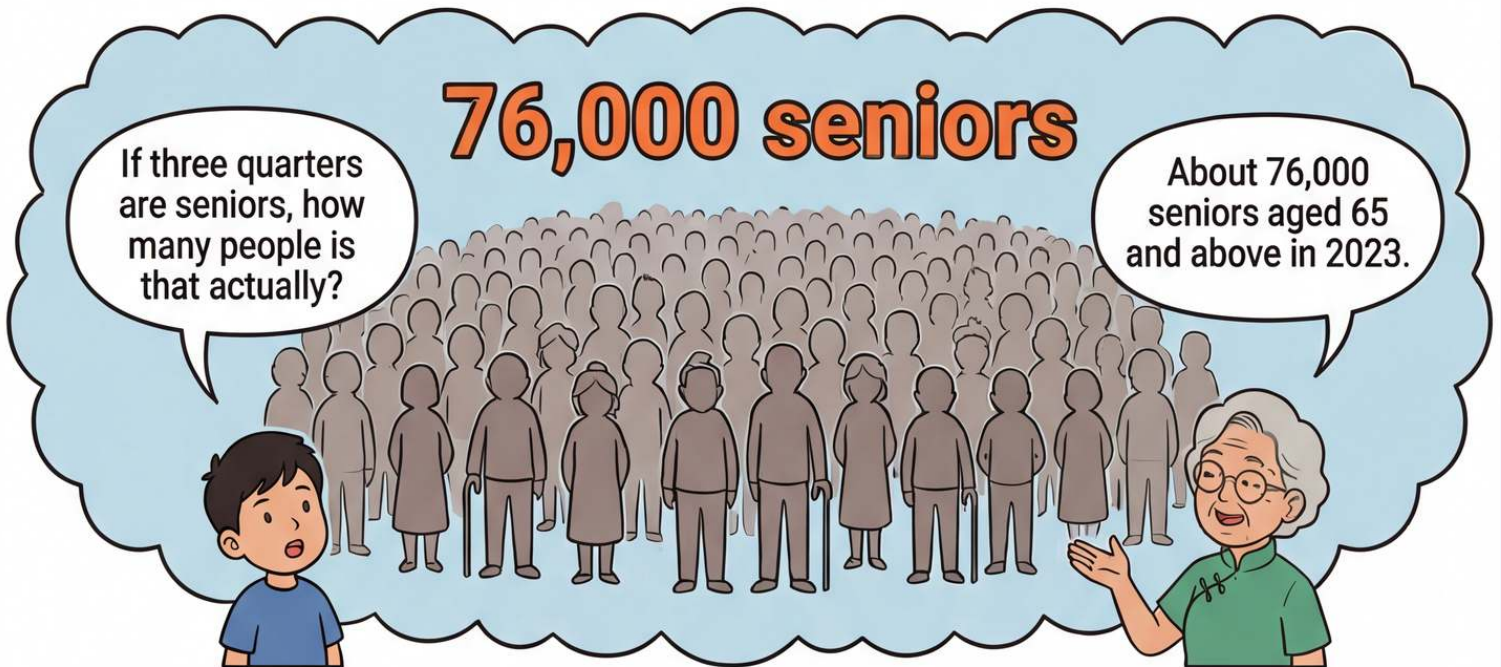
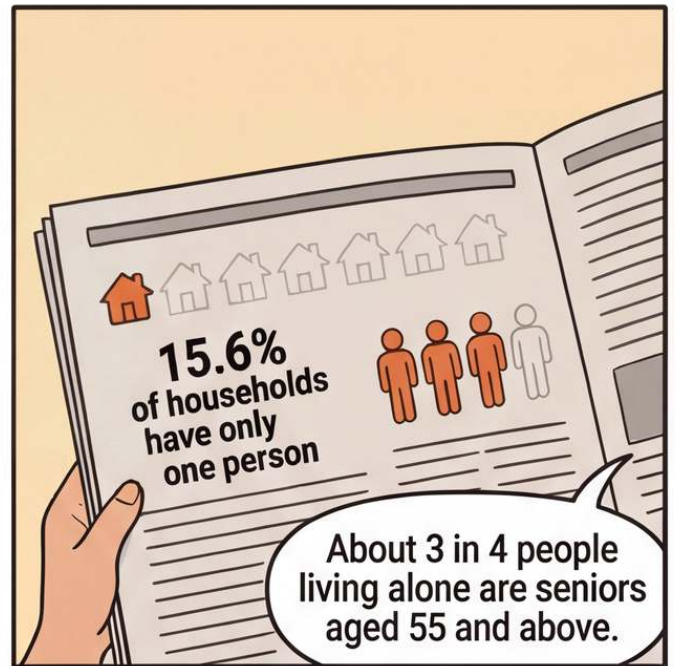
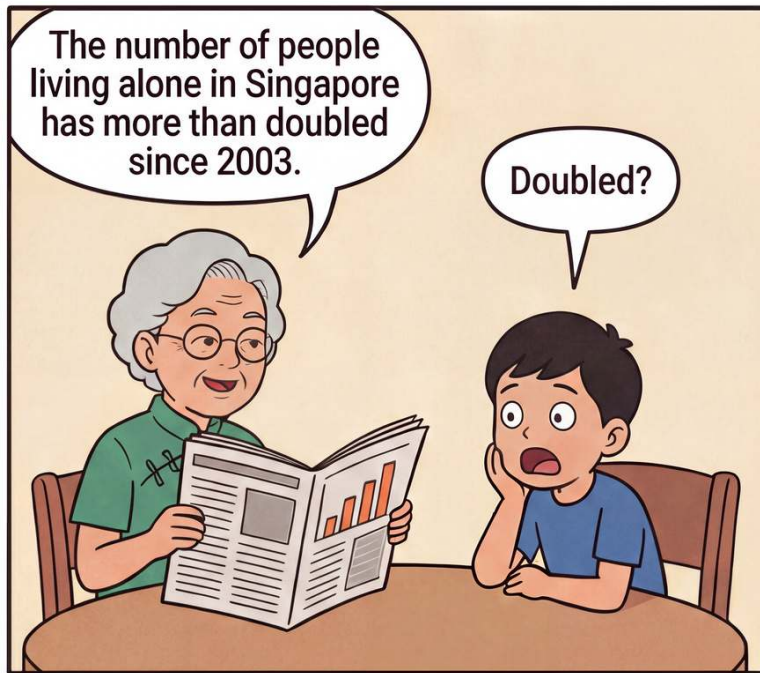
Living Alone but Not Lonely:

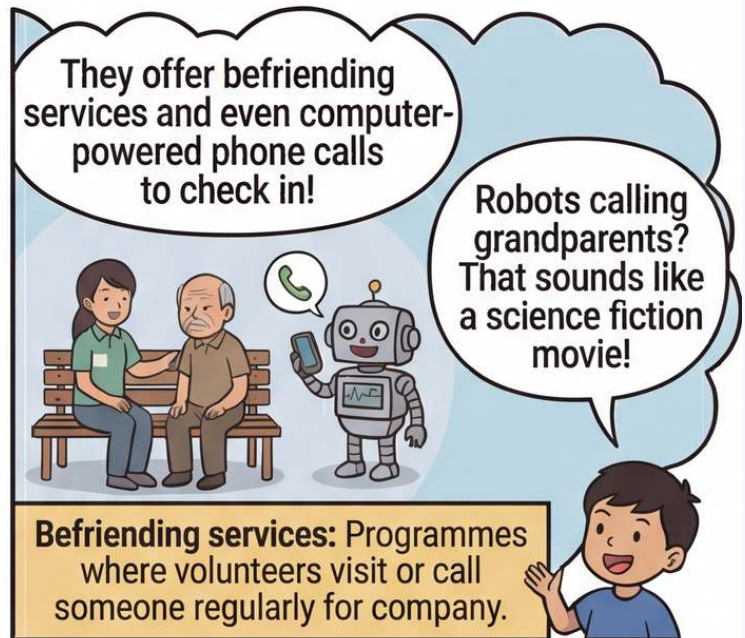
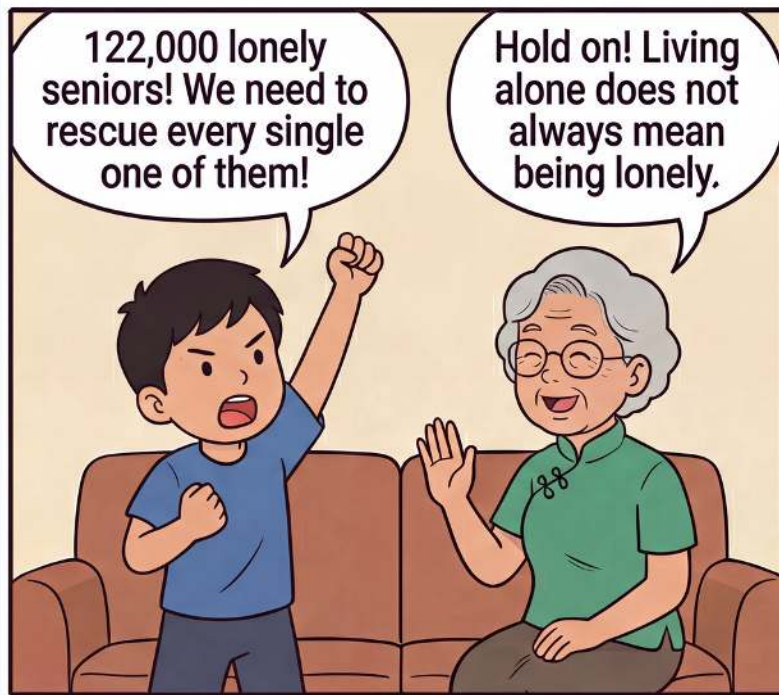
How Singapore Helps Its Seniors Stay Connected

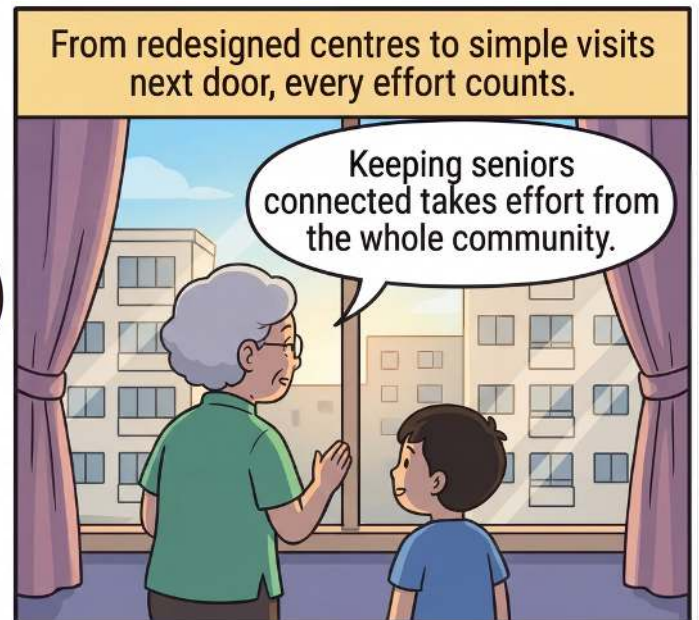
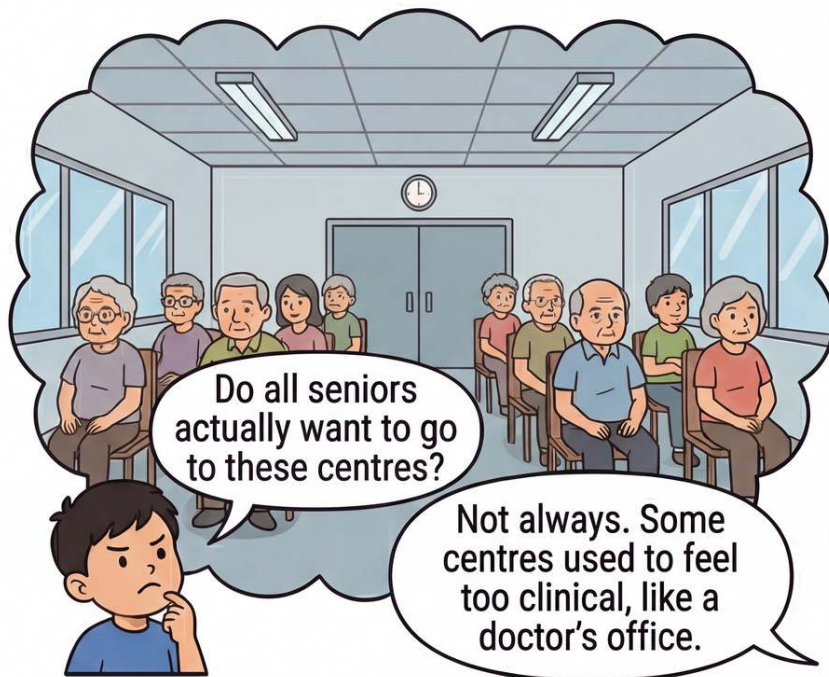


Jun Wei is visiting his grandmother Mrs Tan at her HDB flat.









💡 Did you know?

Singapore went from an ageing society to a super-aged society in just 27 years, faster than Japan, China, Germany, or the United States!

How Self-Driving Shuttles Are Coming to Punggol's Roads



Ethan and his mum are walking home from Punggol MRT.

Are we seriously walking all the way home in this heat?

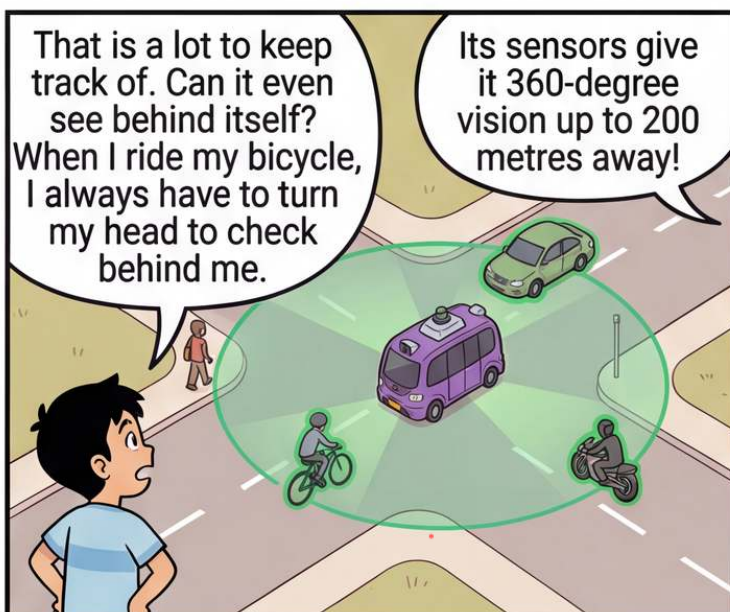
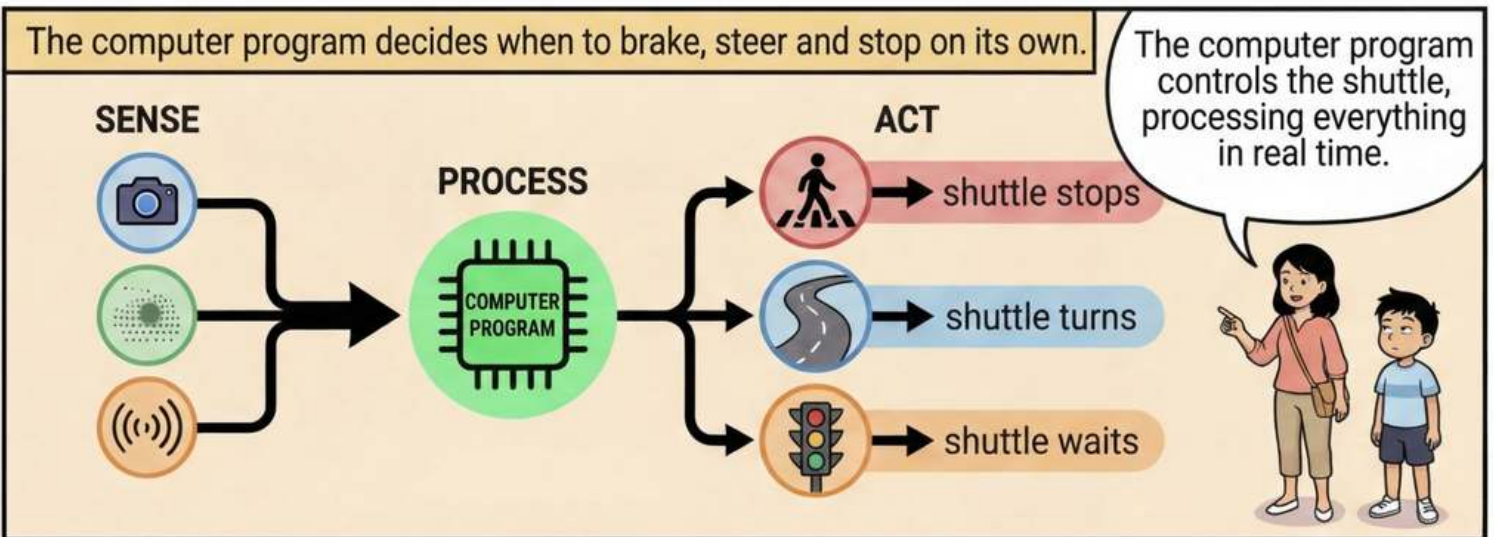
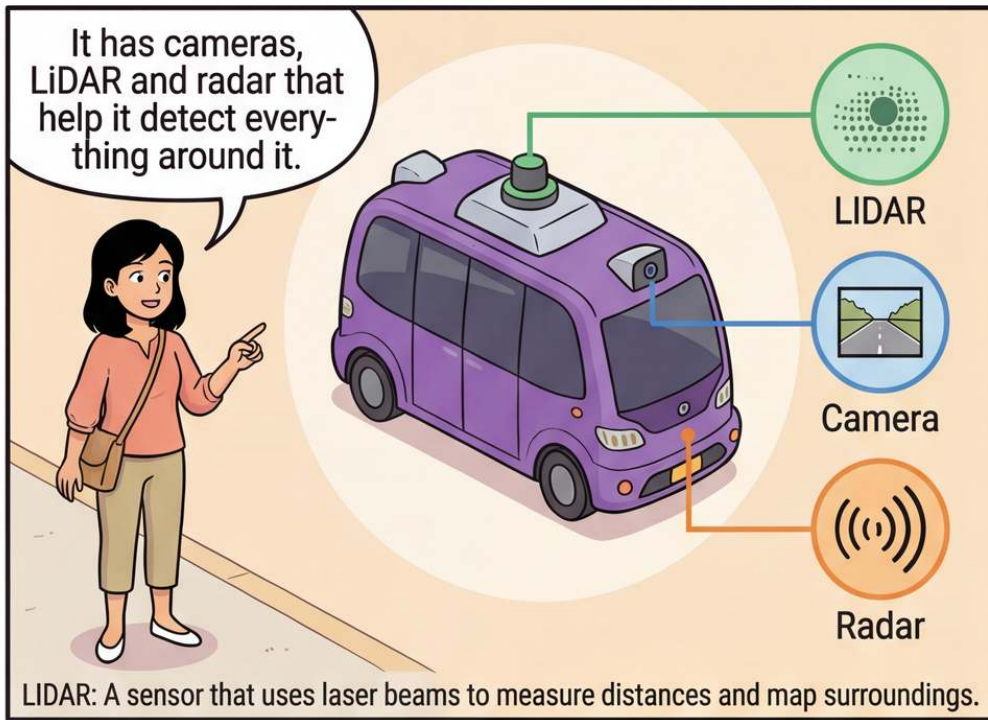
It is only a ten-minute walk, Ethan.

My legs are SO tired I cannot walk another step!

Mum, what is that purple car? Nobody is driving it!

That is a self-driving shuttle! Grab and WeRide are testing it right here in Punggol!

There is no steering wheel, no driver. How does it know when to brake or turn?



Punggol is one of Singapore's newest towns and parts of the public transport infrastructure are still being built.

Alright, the sensors are impressive. Why are they testing it in Punggol, though?

Some homes here are far from the nearest bus stop or MRT.

Like ours! That is exactly why we are sweating right now!

The shuttles help close the "first-and-last-mile" gap.



First-and-last-mile gap: The short but hard-to-reach distance between homes and the nearest MRT station or bus stop.

I love this idea. Is it actually safe with no driver, though?

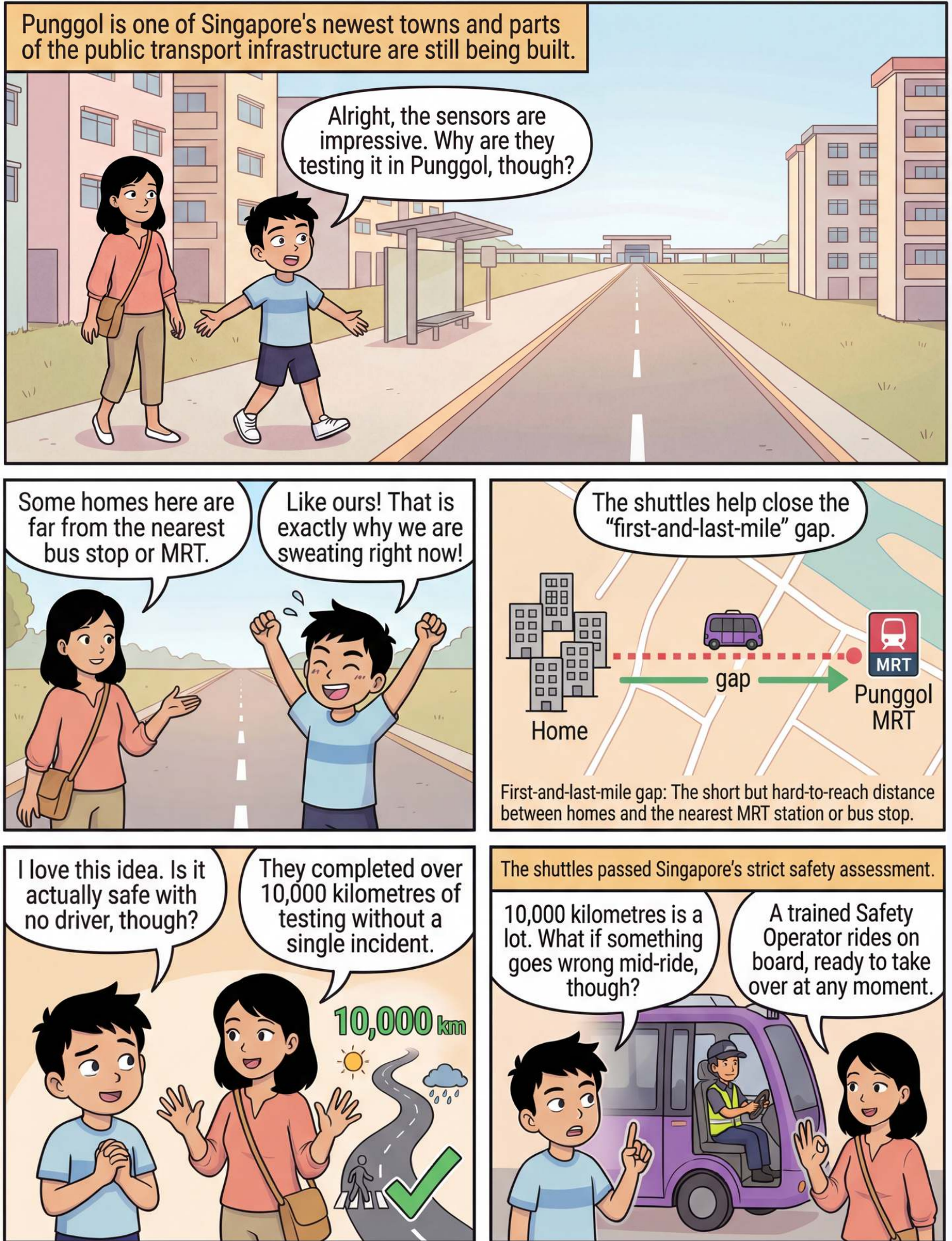
They completed over 10,000 kilometres of testing without a single incident.

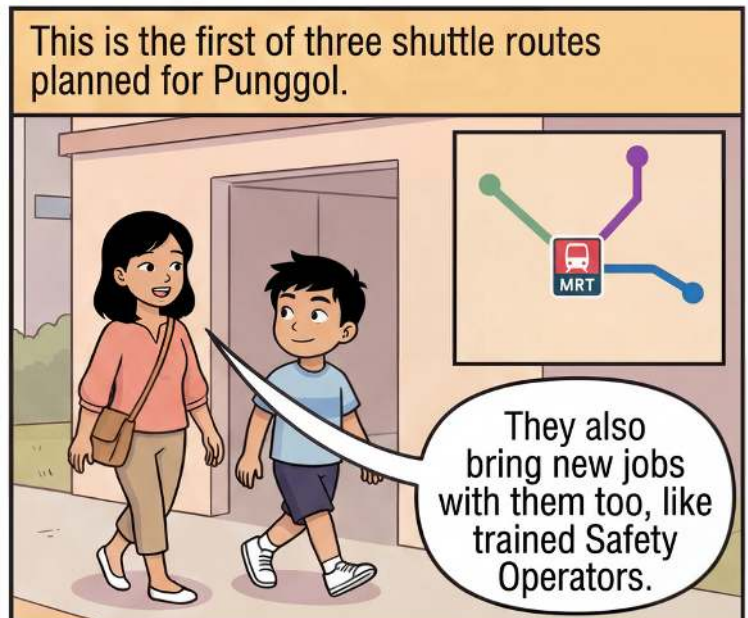
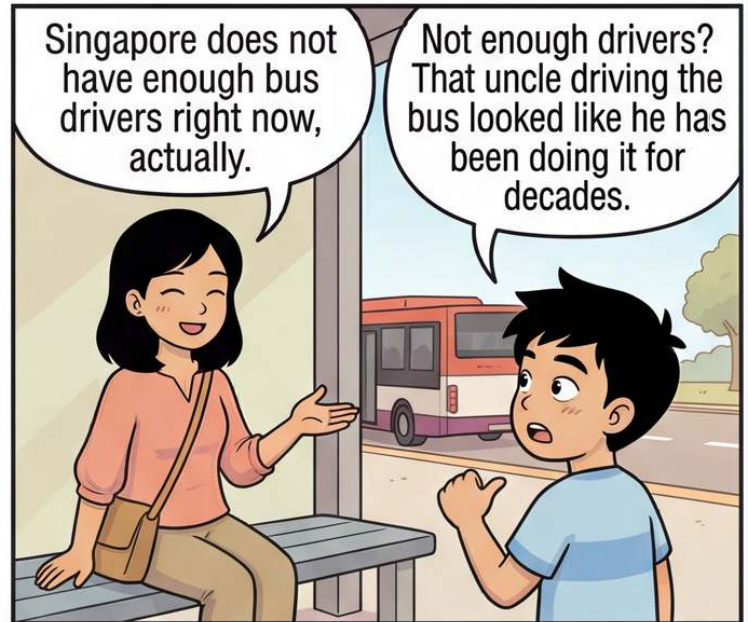
10,000 km

The shuttles passed Singapore's strict safety assessment.

10,000 kilometres is a lot. What if something goes wrong mid-ride, though?

A trained Safety Operator rides on board, ready to take over at any moment.





Would you feel safe riding in a shuttle with no driver? Why or why not?