Return with Flash to the strange planet MONGO!
FLASH GORDON coloring pin-up page

FLASH GORDON AND THE UNDERWATER PEOPLE
FLASH GORDON

A SLEEK ROCKET SHIP SKIMS ABOVE THE CONTINENT OF TROPICA ON THE PLANET MONGO. AT THE CONTROLS IS FLASH GORDON. WITH HIM ARE HIS SWEETHEART, KALE AREN AND HIS GOOD FRIEND, THE GREAT SCIENTIST, DR. HANS ALEXIS ZARKOV...

WE MUST GET TO MINGO CITY AND CONTINUE OUR MISSION FOR EARTH.

YES, FLASH, WE'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN OTHER PEOPLE'S BATTLES FOR SO LONG HERE ON MONGO THAT I NEARLY FORGOT OUR MISSION FOR OUR OWN PLANET.

WELL KIDS, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE NOW. THE WEATHER IS CLEAR AND WE SHOULD BE THERE IN A FEW HOURS.
As the trio leaves the continent of Tropica, Flash's thoughts turn back to the day he first heard of this strange planet... shortly after his graduation from Yale...

People of Earth feared that the orbit of a newly-sighted planet would eventually bring it into a collision course with Earth!

But Dr. Zarkov, accompanied by Flash and Dale, discovered otherwise by journeying to the new planet in a rocketship of Zarkov's design.

Flash and his companions managed to escape the clutches of Ming with the help of the rightful ruler, King Barin and his beautiful wife, Queen Aura, Ming's daughter.

As they neared the gravitational pull of Mongo they lost control of the ship and crash-landed in the realm of Ming the Merciless, self-proclaimed emperor of Mongo, who tried to imprison them.
Among the others who sided with Flash in his attempt to overthrow Ming were King Vultan and his hawkmen...

...Azura, the Witch Queen...

...the underwater people of Queen Undina...

...and in Frigia, the land to the north, Queen Fria and her husband Ronal, cousin of King Barin.

After several years of bloody conflict, Ming's power was at last broken by these forces united under the friendship of Flash Gordon.
The people of Mongo wanted Flash as their new leader, but Earth was at the threshold of a new war, and he was anxious to return.

Leaving King Barin in command, the trio returned to Earth to present the United States with secrets of Mongo science which would help maintain peace. For his efforts, Flash was given the military rank of Colonel.

A serious problem developed...the peacekeeping devices were not effective without huge quantities of radium, a mineral found in abundance on Mongo. So the trio set out once again for Mongo -- only to crash upon the continent of Tropica!

Now, after long months of intrigue and adventure, they are again on their way to Mingo City...

Here they befriended Queen Desira whose throne had been taken over by a tyrant.
LOOK, FLASH! A LARGE LAND MASS NOT CHARTED ON THE MAPS... MIGHT BE INTERESTING TO EXPLORE.

OH, NO YOU DON'T, ZARKOV! REMEMBER OUR MISSION.

Dale's Right, Doc. Our first obligation is to get radium for Earth.

King Barin and Queen Aura welcome them with tears of joy.

There it is, Flash... Mingo City at last! I can see a lot of changes in the city since we left.

It seems to be flourishing under Barin's leadership.

Flash... I never thought we would see you again. I can't tell you how happy I am.

It's good to be back in Mingo City, Barin -- even with all the bad memories it holds.

I'm afraid this isn't just a pleasure trip, Barin. We've come to get a supply of radium for Earth.

That will mean a trip to the Frigia radium mines. Queen Fria and Ronal will be glad to see you again.
SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

REMEMBER ME TO FRIA AND RONAL, FLASH. I WILL HAVE OUR NEW ROCKETSHIP READY WHEN YOU GET BACK...

GOOD OL' DOC, YOU'VE NEVER FAILED US!

MEANWHILE, IN FRIGIA...

OH RONAL, WE MUST PREPARE A CELEBRATION TO WELCOME OUR GOOD FRIENDS.

AND EVIL PLANS ARE SHAKEN...

THIS IS UNFORTUNATE TIMING, BELLAM.

NOT AT ALL, COUNT TRIVIAL. WE WILL DISPOSE OF GORDON ALSO. HE WOULD EVENTUALLY SPELL TROUBLE FOR US.

FLASH AND DALE ARE GREETED WITH GREAT FANFARE. A HOLIDAY IS DECLARED IN THEIR HONOR...
Flash, I have already arranged to get the radium you need. My men will have it ready in a few days.

Thanks, Ronal. Now we can relax and enjoy your marvelous hospitality.

The next day Queen Fria and Ronal arrange a hunt in the white wastes of Frigia.

Look! An ice dragon on the other side of that snow arch!

Prepare for hunt formation!

Flash and Fria lead the hunting party down the hill.

But as the two pass under the snow arch...
FLASH! THE SNOW HAS BLOCKED THE ENTRANCE! WE'RE TRAPPED!

WHO FIRED THAT RAY BEAM?

FORGIVE ME, SIRE, I STUMBLED AND MY RIFLE WENT OFF ACCIDENTALLY.

YOU FOOL! YOU MAY HAVE KILLED YOUR QUEEN!

I DON'T LIKE THIS, DALE. IT WAS TOO WELL PLACED TO BE AN ACCIDENT.

QUICKLY, MEN! START DIGGING! WE MUST REACH THE QUEEN.

YOU ACTED TOO HASTILY, MY DEAR COUNT. KING RONAL SUSPECTS SOMETHING.

INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE THE ICE DRAGON HAS SPOTTED THE INTRUDERS AND SLITHERS TOWARD THEM...

QUICKLY, FLASH--FIRE!
"You did it, Flash!

No, I've only stunned it... This rifle has only three charges left. We won't be able to hold it off much longer.

Flash, these dragons have a thin spot in their skulls just above the eyes.

I hope you're right... Here it comes again!

Good shot, Flash. You've killed it!
Flash, darling! Thank Heaven, you're safe!

Our scientists have found something very interesting connected with these creatures, Flash.

The next day at the palace laboratory...

Flash, Dale, I'd like you to meet our chief scientist, Dr. Davro.

Please doctor, would you tell them about our discovery?

We have been able to tell from the markings on the ice creatures that they have been living for hundreds of years.

From studies of these creatures we have developed a chemical solution which might slow down the aging process in man.

Ronal and I and some of my ladies in waiting have volunteered to test it. So far we have shown no signs of aging, nor have we felt any ill effects.

Remarkable!

Oh Flash, we must try it!
WE DO NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN, BUT MY SCIENTISTS THINK IT MAY BE FIFTEEN OR TWENTY YEARS BEFORE WE BEGIN TO AGE AGAIN.

I COULD NEVER IMAGINE YOU ANY OLDER, FRIA.

OH I CAN, FLASH, THAT IS WHY I FIND THIS EXPERIMENT SO INTERESTING.

LATER THAT EVENING...

HAVE YOU FOLLOWED INSTRUCTIONS, BELLAM?

YES, COUNT TRIVAL... DR. DAVRO HAS POISONED THE ENTIRE SOLUTION. BY MIDNIGHT THE KINGDOM SHALL BE OURS.

I'LL HAVE DR. DAVRO PREPARE SOME OF THIS SOLUTION FOR YOU AND DALE... AND, OF COURSE, ZARKOV'S BRILLIANT MIND MUST BE KEPT ACTIVE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

AHHHH... THEY ARE ABOUT TO DRINK THE SOLUTION...
OH FLASH, I FEEL FAINT!

DALE! WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU WILL KNOW SOON ENOUGH, GORDON! NOW, QUEEN FRIA, MAY I REQUEST THAT YOU AND KING RONAL DRINK FROM THAT SOLUTION?

TRAITOR! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

TRUE TO HIS NAME, FLASH TAKES ACTION...

TELL ME, WHO ARE YOUR ACCOMPliceS... OR YOU DIE TOO!

IT WAS ALL BELLAM'S DOING! HE AND DR. DAVRO POISONED THE SOLUTION.

YOU LYING COWARD!
Ignoring the numbness spreading throughout his body, Flash draws Trival's sword and faces his new antagonist.

Guards! Arrest that man!

Bellam fights for his life against his crazed opponent and succeeds in forcing Flash toward the palace staircase.

As Bellam rushes in for the kill, Flash gathers his remaining strength into a decisive thrust.

No, Ronal, he's mine! He killed Dale!

You can't last much longer, Gordon. You're weakening already.

Before I die I'll have the satisfaction of killing you!
Guards are sent to arrest Dr. Davro as Flash's strength finally ebbs out.

I'm... getting weaker... can hardly move...

It will pass quickly, Flash.

DAVRO, YOU!!

Yes, Flash. There was no poison.

What?

Bellam tried to bribe me, but I have remained loyal to the Queen.

He's right, Flash. I feel fine.

Instead of poison, I placed a mild drug in the solution which would produce momentary unconsciousness. I hoped that Bellam's accomplice would reveal himself.

Dale, I thought I had lost you.
The following day their ship is loaded with the precious radium supply for Earth. After sad farewells, Flash and Dale depart the land of Frigia.

Within hours they arrive at Mingo City where Zarkov has completed repairs of the rocket-ship which will carry them back to Earth.

Everything is in readiness, Flash. Once the radium is aboard we can take off for Earth.

It will be hard leaving Barin and Aura again.

Once again Flash, Dale and Zarkov take leave of the planet Mongo with their mission completed.

A QUIET NIGHT, LOTHAR! LET'S DRIVE AROUND THE SQUARE!

EVERYBODY LOOKS HAPPY AND PEACEFUL, MANDRAKE!

BUT TWO MEN IN THE CITY SQUARE ARE FAR FROM PEACEFUL...

THE PAIR WORKS QUICKLY... CAREFULLY...

GET A MOVE ON! IN EXACTLY EIGHT MINUTES THE MIXTURE WILL BLEND WITH THE SMOKE!
While below... The city has a million lights... each one could represent the hopes of people who come here looking for success!

Suddenly... Now there's something I've never seen before - the candy smoke ring sign is out of order... the rings are going down... into the crowd!

The crowd's having a good time with those smoke rings... but I don't think it's safe for the traffic to drive through!

One half minute to go!

Suddenly, the two men move... swiftly...

Now! Hey, you two!

Suddenly, the crowd's mood changes as...

G-gas! Arrrgh!
LIKE AN ANGRY TIDAL WAVE, PANIC FILLS THE PEACEFUL CITY SQUARE...

PEOPLE CHOKING... FALLING! WHAT IS HAPPENING?

GAS, LOTHAR! IT'S THOSE SMOKE RINGS! LISTEN! THE JEWELRY STORE IS BEING LOOTED!

BRRINNG!

THERE ARE THIEVES!
ME STOP!

NO, LOTHAR!

YOU'LL JUST BE OVERCOME... AS THAT OFFICER WAS! IT WILL TAKE SOME SPECIAL TREATMENT TO STOP THOSE THIEVES!

MANDRAKE GESTURES HYPNOTICALLY...

AND THE THIEVES GET A TASTE OF MIGHTY HYPNOTIC MAGIC...

L-LOOK! THE SMOKE RINGS ARE FOLLOWING US!

A-AND THEY AREN'T SMOKE RINGS NOW! TH-THHEY'RE IRON BANDS!
THE UNCANNY ILLUSION MANDRAKE HAS CREATED IN THE THIEVES' MINDS BECOMES STRONGER...

YIPES! DOZENS OF THEM! THEY'RE ATTACKING US!

T-THE SUBWAY... DOWN THE STAIRS... QUICK!

CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!

...UNTIL THEY ACTUALLY FEEL THE NONEXISTENT IRON BANDS!

YAAAAAA!

BUT, OF COURSE, THE IRON BANDS EXIST ONLY IN THEIR MINDS

LET US OUT! W-WE SURRENDER!

WH-WHAT IN HILL? I'VE NEVER SEEN THIEVES GIVE UP LIKE THAT BEFORE! WHAT AILS THEM?

TAKE OFF THE IRON BANDS! PLEASE!

I GUESS THEIR GUILTY CONSCIENCES MAKE THEM FEEL THAT THEY ARE TRAPPED! THEY'LL BE ALL RIGHT LATER, OFFICER!

WELL, LOTHAR, SHALL WE CONTINUE OUR MIDNIGHT TOUR OF THE PEACEFUL CITY?

GOOD JOKE, MANDRAKE... BUT YOU PLAY BETTER JOKE ON CROOKS!
TEENAGE SPACE EXPLORERS

The adventures of Flash Gordon officially began back in 1934 when the late Alex Raymond introduced the now world-famous Flash in a Sunday color page for newspapers.

Not many years before that, a group of German hobbyists had built a liquid-fuel rocket that could rise to an altitude of about a mile. And at about the same time, a group of men in New York formed the American Interplanetary Society, an organization devoted to the design and construction of rocket engines by amateurs. The members of the German group included such names as Wernher von Braun, Hermann Oberth, Willy Ley, Johannes Winkler among its 1,000 members. The American group also included many of today's professionals. Indeed, its members formed a company which they called Reaction Motors, Inc. And their engines were used to power the Bell X-1, the first plane to break through the sound barrier, and the Martin Viking, which for many years held the altitude record for single-stage rockets of 158 miles.

During World War II, most of the amateur rocket societies stopped their experimenting. But the end of the war saw the birth of new, even more enthusiastic groups. Among them, California's Reaction Research Society has launched several successful mail-carrying rockets. Today there are hundreds of such organizations all over the United States and the world. In this country, they are all affiliated with the American Astronautical Federation, which collects and distributes information and promotes space flight.

Members of these clubs are people interested in design and construction both of the missile itself and the tiny engines used. Some of them are interested in the development of propellants, a challenge to their knowledge of mathematics, physics and chemistry. Others are photography bugs who provide vital photographic records of every launching and flight. Many of them, of course, are teenagers with an eye on the future. All of them gain basic knowledge of rocketry and the teamwork required for every successful flight.

Naturally, real space flight by amateurs is not likely. They don't have the money or the access to the sophisticated materials required. But they do get first-hand knowledge of problems waiting to be solved. And by exchanging information and participating in actual experiments, they learn the basic principles of rocket flight.

Is it a safe hobby? Irresponsible thrill-seekers have given amateur rocketry a bad name in recent years. The propellants used in rockets are dangerously explosive chemicals and should be handled carefully. But when all the rules of safety are followed carefully, when experimenting is done by a responsible group, serious injuries do not generally occur.

If you want to take up rocketry as a hobby, join one of the hundreds of established groups. As an individual, no one has the time, the skills or the money to design, build and fire his own rocket. Even if it were possible, he'd be cheating himself of the rewarding experience of the exchange of ideas and enthusiasm only a group project can offer.

See it in September: FLASHES—a page of your comments and suggestions. Send your cards and letters now to: Flash Gordon, King Features Syndicate, 235 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017. Then look for your letter in September and other future issues of Flash Gordon.
FLASH GORDON

AND THE MOLE MACHINE

Flash Gordon, Dale Arden and Dr. Hans Zarkov returned from the planet Mongo after World War II to find that Earth scientists had developed weapons powerful enough to destroy the world. Dr. Zarkov retreated to his secret laboratory to experiment with Mongo inventions. It is there that Flash and Dale are now headed...

OH, FLASH! IT WILL BE GOOD TO SEE ZARKOV AGAIN.

YES, DALE. ON THE PHONE THE OLD BOY SOUNDED EXCITED AS A KID. HE MUST HAVE FINISHED HIS PROJECT.

HELLO DOC. WHAT HAVE YOU GOT UP YOUR SLEEVE THIS TIME?

DEAR ZARKOV!

FLASH, DALE! I'M SO HAPPY YOU'VE COME!

YOU HAVE QUITE A LAYOUT HERE, DOC.

YES, THERE ARE MANY YOUNG SCIENTISTS EAGER TO DEVOTE THEIR LIVES TO KEEPING OUR COUNTRY SAFE.
The trio step into an elevator which takes them 1000 feet below the surface.

In the event of nuclear war we think it's possible human life could survive underground.

Since I have always wanted to explore the inner earth, we have been working on a mole machine, capable of boring through solid rock.

And now it's finished! Are you willing to test it with me, Flash?

I thought you'd never ask, Doc!

Now just a second, have you forgotten me?

No, Dale, I haven't. I don't want any of my assistants to know it's ready just yet. We'll need you here to keep in radio contact with us.

Hmmm... well, I don't know.

Aw, c'mon, Dale. We won't be gone for more than a few hours.
I'm outnumbered, you win. But please be careful, both of you.

Good girl!

A few minutes later, inside the mole machine.

The mole detonates small atomic explosions to pulverize the rock ahead of it.

I see from the instrument panel that it can also fly through air and navigate under water. Ingenious!

The mole starts its test journey, sealing its trail as it bores through solid rock.

For several miles the two explorers see nothing but rock. Then, suddenly, they find themselves in an underground ocean!

...An ocean filled with many strange menacing creatures...

Thunderation, flash. Look at the size of those monsters!

If I didn't know better, I'd say we were back on Mongo.
They travel several miles underwater unmolested by the sea monsters until the mole comes out of the depths into an eerie world within a world...

Dr. Zarkov brings the machine to a halt on the beach...

This is fantastic, Flash. The instruments show the atmosphere to be perfect for humans.

And that city! It proves that man can live underground. We must get a closer look!

I'll check with Dale and tell her we will probably be longer than we expected.

Good, Flash, this is a great discovery! I just can't leave without exploring the city.

As Flash and Zarkov leave the mole they are unaware they are being watched...
ZARKOV! LOOK OUT!

Before Flash can reach his gun he and Zarkov are quickly subdued.

Do not be afraid, surface men. I am Princess Darla. My father rules this world. You will not be harmed if you come quietly with us.

We come in peace. We mean no harm to you or your people.

They didn’t take my gun. We’ll wait our chance.

Good, Flash. But let’s not be hasty.

But as they approach the city...
Grabbing a spear from a frightened guard...

Flash kills the huge bird before it can harm the princess.

News of Flash's heroic deed precedes them to the palace...

Welcome, surface men. I am Krenko, supreme ruler of Krenkelium. I am grateful to you for saving my daughter's life.

This is my friend Dr. Zarkov and I am Flash Gordon.

For your brave deed you will be given your freedom... within the confines of Krenkelium. The machine you came in must be destroyed. If our existence becomes known on the surface we would be unable to stem the flow of the greedy and war-like.
YOU MEAN TO KEEP US HERE FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES?

BUT WE HAVE OBLIGATIONS TO OUR OWN WORLD.

OUR LAW DOES NOT PERMIT STRANGERS TO LEAVE HERE. BUT COME, LET US DINE AND LATER WE SHALL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE WONDERS OF KRENKELIUM.

ZARKOV! WE CAN'T LET THEM DESTROY THE MOLE!

DON'T WORRY, FLASH, THEY CAN'T GET INTO THE MACHINE AND THEY DON'T HAVE THE WEAPONS TO DESTROY IT!

THE FOOD IS DELICIOUS, SIR... COMPLETELY UNLIKE OUR SURFACE PRODUCTS.

MOST OF IT IS MADE IN OUR FOOD LABORATORIES, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE MANY FORMS WHICH GROW WITHOUT SUNLIGHT.

LATER AS DARLA TAKES FLASH FOR A STROLL IN THE PALACE GARDENS...

IS IT NOT BEAUTIFUL, FLASH? I AM SURE YOU WILL LIKE LIVING IN KRENKELIUM.

DARLA, YOU MUST MAKE YOUR FATHER REALIZE THAT WE CANNOT STAY HERE FOREVER. I PROMISE NEVER TO REVEAL THE LOCATION OF YOUR CITY.

SUDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, THREE DARK FIGURES ATTACK...
Flash quickly subdues two of the attackers...

Before the third one can reach Darla...

Why do you want to save them? They tried to hurt you.

Poor things... they must have escaped from the lava beds.

I don't understand.

Come, I will show you.

Darla leads Flash to the edge of the city where a fiery river of molten lava seethes and boils like an angry monster...

We've enslaved these creatures to keep building rock ramparts against the lava erosion which is menacing our city.

Of course, the texture of their skins makes them able to withstand the terrific heat.
I've always hoped that my father would free these poor creatures, but the very existence of our city depends upon maintaining this wall.

Darla, I think my friend Dr. Zarkov can help solve this problem.

Returning to the palace Flash and Darla tell Zarkov of the lava menace...

Yes, Flash. I think there is a way it can be done.

Flash and Zarkov approach King Krenko with a plan...

Your highness, we are convinced that we can divert the lava river that endangers your city. If you will allow us to return to our ship we can make preparations.

Do you take me for a fool? I am not deceived by your ruse. You are planning to escape!

No! Father, they are honorable men. If you would give them a chance...

Silence, daughter. Guards! Confine these men to their quarters.
QUICK, ZARKOV! HEAD FOR THE MOLE, I'LL TRY TO HOLD THEM OFF!

I'M GOING WITH YOU!

FIRING A RAY BOLT AT THE BASE OF A PILLAR, FLASH SLOWS THE GUARDS' PURSUIT...

BUT MY CHILD, YOU'VE PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER!

THE GUARDS WILL NOT THROW THEIR SPEARS WHEN THEY SEE I'M WITH YOU.

FOLLOW ME. THIS IS THE SHORTEST WAY TO YOUR SHIP!

BUT WHEN THEY REACH THE MOLE THREE MORE GUARDS BAR THEIR WAY...
As Flash battles the guards, Zarkov unlocks the hatch of the mole...

Thank heavens we made it! Hurry Flash!

While Flash steers the mole machine toward the lava river, Zarkov makes some quick calculations...

I've got it! We'll use the ray beams to blast a new channel for the lava river away from the city.

With Zarkov at the controls and Flash firing ray beams, the slow process of creating a new channel begins... and the populace of Krenkelium watch in awe-stricken silence.
The river of lava slowly begins to move away from the city along Zarkov's new path.

Having successfully completed the detour, Zarkov heads the mole back to the beach...

I don't like leaving you, Darla, after you defied your father.

I will be all right, Flash. He is a just man and will realize you will keep your word.

Flash! Zarkov! I'm so glad you're back! I was beginning to worry.

What happened?

We had a little trouble getting back to the mole.

We're heading home right now.

But as Flash and Zarkov travel back to the surface of Earth, they know in their hearts that some day they will return to the beautiful underground city of Krenkelium.
MING
THE MERCELESS