



ROCHESTER
BRIDGE TRUST

Bridges, books and building!

Whilst reading a range of story books we've noticed just how many of them feature bridges..... or sometimes it's the lack of a bridge that creates a problem! Have a think about some of the books you have read – can you think of any examples? Whilst reading books, try to spot the bridges – or where a bridge might help the characters in the story!

In the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt!", by Michael Rosen, the family come across a number of obstacles which they must cross. How much easier would it have been to get across the river, if there had been a bridge? Watch the story here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iou5LV9dRP0>

Dinosaurs might not be the most obvious bridge fans, but in the lovely story "Tyrannosaurus Drip" by Julia Donaldson and David Roberts, the Tyrannosaurus family are prevented from getting across the river to eat the duckbilled dinosaurs, because there is no way for them to cross the river! Watch the story here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmQVWHEcbHY>



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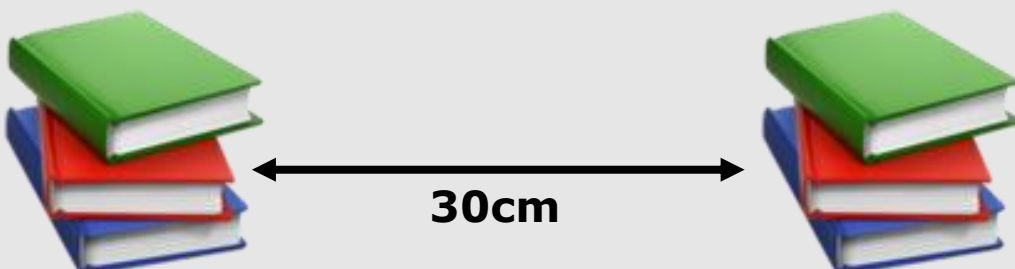
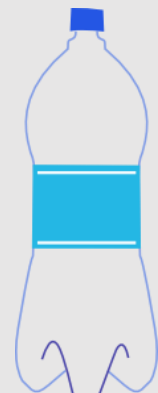
Your challenge!

Design and build a model bridge, that can carry someone or something across an obstacle, such as a river, swamp, road or train tracks. Your bridge must be freestanding, must be able to stand on two bases, placed 30cm apart. Get an adult to help you measure this distance. You could build your bridge from Lego/Duplo, wooden construction blocks or even from recycling/junk materials.

You will need:

- Junk, recycling, Sellotape and glue if you are making the bridge from these materials **OR**
- Lego, wooden building blocks, construction toys
- 500ml water bottle, water and a measuring jug
- 2 books/piles of books placed 30cm apart on the table/floor (the bases)

Design and construct your bridge using the materials you have selected. Your bridge must be able to be placed on the 2 bases (piles of books) placed 30cm apart. Once your bridge is in place, you could test its strength by taking an empty 500ml water bottle, and adding 100ml of water to it before placing it on your bridge (don't forget to put the lid on!). Can you fill up the whole bottle and get your bridge to stand up with the load on it?





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Your challenge!

Fill in the boxes below to record the story behind your bridge and how successfully you completed the challenge!

Title of the book: _____

Author: _____



Who needs a bridge? _____

What is the obstacle they need to cross? _____

Why do they need to cross the obstacle? _____

What bits
of your
bridge were
strongest?

**Evaluate your
bridge**

How much water did
your bridge hold?

How might
you improve
your bridge
if you did it
again?