

# Bridges

## Beam Bridges

The beam bridge was the first type of bridge ever made. It is also the simplest type of bridge. It is made of a **horizontal beam** that is supported at each end by **piers**. The beam bridge can only **span** 250 feet.

Horizontal: across, sideways, the long way

Beam: a flat surface

Pier: an upright support for the middle sections of a bridge

Span: the distance between two ends

## Arch Bridges

The arch bridge was built to let traffic go across it and under it at the same time. It is made up of a **semicircular** arch that is supported at each end. Arch bridges can **span** up to 800 feet.

Semicircular: in the shape of half a circle

## Suspension Bridges

A suspension bridge is the newest type of bridge. It is made by hanging cables or chains between two towers to **anchor** the **deck**. Suspension bridges can span 2,000-7,000 feet!

Anchor: to secure something so it won't move

Deck: flat part of the bridge

# Bridges

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What type of bridge can *span* the longest distance?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What type of bridge was invented first? What type of bridge was invented last?

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Draw and label another thing that has a *semicircular* shape.

4. When or where else could you use an *anchor*? Write or draw your answer.

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