

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Main Topic

Read the short story and answer each question.



How Bridges are Built

Bridges help people cross over water, roads, or valleys.

They are important structures that connect places and make travel easier. People use bridges to walk, ride bikes, drive cars, or move goods.

Planning is the first step in building a bridge.

Engineers study the land and decide what kind of bridge is needed. They look at the size of the gap, what's under it, and how strong the bridge must be. Then, they create detailed blueprints.

Next, builders gather materials.

Bridges can be made of steel, concrete, stone, or wood. Builders choose materials based on how strong and long-lasting the bridge needs to be.

Then the construction begins.

Teams use cranes, trucks, and tools to place the supports and build the deck—the part you walk or drive on. Safety checks are done along the way to make sure everything is strong and stable.

Finally, the bridge opens to the public.

Once the bridge passes inspections, it's ready to be used. Some bridges even have opening ceremonies or parades to celebrate!



Name: _____

How Bridges are Built

1. What is the main topic of this text?

- A. Different types of roads
- B. How bridges are built step by step
- C. Why some bridges fall down
- D. Who invented bridges

2. What is the focus of the second paragraph?

- A. What tools are used to build bridges
- B. How blueprints are made
- C. How engineers plan and design bridges
- D. What kind of traffic goes on bridges

3. Fill in the blank:

Before building a bridge, engineers make careful _____.

4. How does each paragraph add a different step to understanding how bridges are built?

5. Why is it important to know the main topic and paragraph focus when reading about how something works?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: L

Lexile Level: 355L-505L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Informational (Engineering/Technology)

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read a nonfiction text that explains how bridges are built. As we read, we'll identify the main topic of the entire text and look closely at how each paragraph focuses on a different part of the bridge-building process."

Vocabulary: engineer, blueprint, construction, support, inspection

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever crossed a bridge? What kind was it?
 2. What do you think goes into building a bridge?
 3. What materials do you think are used for bridges?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the main topic so far?
 2. What does the third paragraph help explain?
 3. How do the steps connect to each other?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What did each paragraph teach you about building a bridge?
 2. How does focusing on one paragraph at a time help you understand the full topic?
 3. Why is it useful to know how things are built in real life?
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Activity Idea

Challenge students to become "Bridge Designers." Using craft sticks, string, or paper, they create a simple bridge across a gap (like two books). Then they label the steps they took—planning, materials, building, and testing—and write a sentence explaining how each step connects to what they read.

