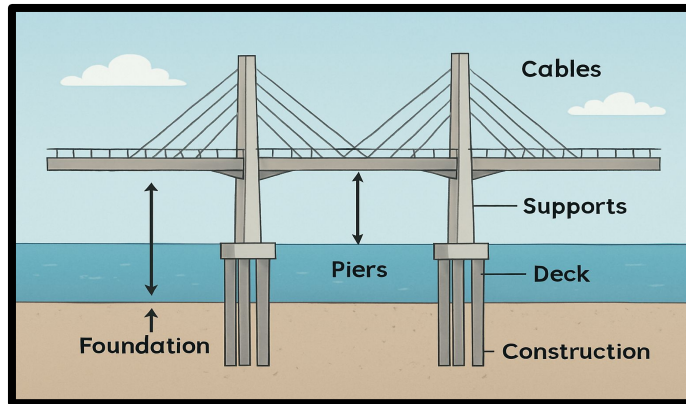


Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Text Features & Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



How a Bridge Is Built

Bridges help people and vehicles cross over water, valleys, or roads. Building a bridge takes careful planning, strong materials, and a lot of teamwork.

Step 1: Planning and Design

Engineers study the land and decide which kind of bridge works best. They create blueprints that show how strong the bridge must be and how it will be built.

Step 2: Building the Foundation

Before anything goes above ground, crews build a foundation. In water, large supports called **piers** are sunk deep into the ground to hold up the bridge.

Step 3: Adding the Structure

Workers build the **deck**, the flat surface people walk or drive on. They may use steel beams, cables, or concrete to connect the parts. Cranes and machines lift pieces into place.

Step 4: Finishing Touches

Finally, crews add guardrails, signs, and paint. Safety checks are done to make sure the bridge is ready to use.



Name: _____

How a Bridge Is Built

1. How does the diagram help the reader understand the passage?

- A. It shows each main part of the bridge and the order they are added.
- B. It compares bridges to tunnels.
- C. It shows the history of bridges.
- D. It lists every tool used on a bridge.

2. What is labeled in the diagram to support understanding?

- A. Foundation, piers, deck, supports, and cables
- B. Trees, rocks, and dirt
- C. Boats and animals
- D. Subway tunnels

3. Fill in the blank:

The _____ is the flat surface where people walk or drive on a bridge.

4. What does the diagram show that the words also explain?

5. How does seeing the structure help readers understand how bridges are built?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: O

Lexile Level: 590L-740L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Informational / Engineering & Construction

Introducing the Text

"Today we're reading about how a bridge is built. As we read, we'll pay attention to how the diagram helps us better understand each step and part. Text features like diagrams are especially helpful when reading nonfiction about how something works."

Vocabulary: foundation, deck, piers, supports, blueprint

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever seen a bridge being built or repaired?
 2. Why do you think diagrams are important when explaining construction?
 3. What questions do you have about bridges?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are the first and last steps of building a bridge?
 2. How do the piers support the bridge?
 3. What does the diagram add to your understanding?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How did the diagram help you understand the structure and process?
 2. Why is it helpful to see labeled parts in a step-by-step diagram?
 3. What would be harder to understand without the picture?
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Activity Idea

Have students draw a simple labeled diagram of a bridge showing the parts from the passage. Then they write 3–5 sentences explaining the order of construction, using both the diagram and what they learned from the text.

