

Arch Bridge Treatment

This short video segment will focus on why Romans used stone arches to construct many of their bridges.

The video will begin with shots of various Roman stone arch bridges while the host explains in a voice-over that Romans typically used stone arches to construct their bridges. Through animations or simple sketches done by the host, the video will show an alternative type of bridge for spanning rivers (post and beam bridges), then explain why arch bridges are better. (They can span greater distances and create fewer obstacles to the river's flow and any ships traveling on the river.)

The host will then explain the structure of arch bridges: how they are built (with a wooden form), the role of the keystone, the use of stones on the sides to counteract weight on top, and how the stones are compressed to make the arch rigid and capable of supporting heavy loads. The video will use animations, sketches drawn by the artist, and video and stills of real bridges to illustrate each point.

This document represents a sample script that might have been written for this video. This resource was adapted from *Building Big: "Bridges."*

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