

Paper bridge challenge

AGES 5-10 / ABOUT 20 MIN / WITH A GROWN-UP

1. Set two books a hand-width apart. Lay one flat sheet of paper across them.
2. Add small toys to the bridge, one at a time. How many can it hold?
3. Fold, roll, or pleat the paper to make it stronger. Test again. Draw before and after.

Flat bridge: how many toys?

My stronger bridge

MY NAME OR MARK: _____

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THE GROWN-UP GUIDE

Shape, not just material, makes things strong.

GATHER

This sheet, 2 books, plain paper, small light toys or blocks, tape.

A QUESTION TO BORROW

Why is the folded paper stronger than the flat one?

MAKE IT EASIER

Try only one fold. Add toys with a grown-up counting.

ADD A CHALLENGE

Make a bridge from a different material (cardstock, a cereal box) and compare.

A GOOD PLACE TO STOP

Keep the strongest bridge on display for a day.

KEEP IT COMFORTABLE & SAFE

Use light toys only. Keep fingers clear of falling books.

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Age ranges are a guide. Let your child point, draw, dictate or write.
Use with a grown-up; pause whenever either of you needs a break.