

Building Bridges

Can you build a bridge with LEGO bricks?

ENGAGE

A bridge is something that spans across the distance between two things. You may have a bridge that is a road that goes over water. You may have a foot bridge where people walk between two buildings over a road. Allow students to share examples of bridges. Consider showing images as well.

EXPLORE

Working with a partner, build a bridge. Provide each set of partners with LEGO® bricks. Explain to the students that each partner is responsible for creating half of the bridge. They will combine their halves to make the complete bridge. They must build their half independently.

EXPLAIN

When they have finished building, ask students to take turns showing their models. Consider asking questions like:

- How did you construct your part of the bridge?
- Did your bridge halves connect on the first try? Or did you have to rebuild some parts?
- What was the most challenging during this build?
- What was the most successful part of this build?
- What kind of details did you need to communicate with your partner in order to complete this task? (number of bricks, size of bricks, length, width, etc.)

ELABORATE

Have two sets of partners work together with their bricks to combine their bricks and create a larger, sturdier bridge that spans a river that has been created using blue construction paper.

EXTEND

Have students research real life examples of bridges throughout the world. There are different types of bridges, such as an arch bridge, beam bridge, suspension bridge, and truss bridge. Have students find images of real bridges and use them as an inspiration for their next bridge model.