

Bridge Vocabulary Matching Game

Write the letter for the definition of each word on the left column. How many can you match?

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| D Abutment | A. A curved structure spanning a gap or opening. Traditionally built of stone, it can also use concrete, iron, or steel. The form causes its elements to be primarily in compression under any load. |
| F Suspension Bridge | B. A large chamber, watertight but open at the bottom, which is filled with compressed air and lowered into a body of water to allow construction work at the water's bottom. |
| H Load | C. Everything below the bridge roadway. This supports the superstructure. It transfers the load from the superstructure to the soil or rock below. Piers and abutments are part of this. |
| A Arch | D. The structure at each end of a bridge that supports the ends and resists the outward pressing forces of, for example, an arch bridge. It is often built of stone or concrete. The abutment transfers forces from the bridge to the soil. |
| C Substructure | E. A structure that carries water from one place to another, usually elevated, traditionally built of stone. |
| N Span | F. A type of bridge in which the bridge deck is hung from cables that are strung across a gap over towers. Vertical cables hang from these cables to support the bridge deck. |
| B Caisson | G. Bridge that features a support structure made up of straight components arranged in rigid triangles, either above or below the deck. |
| E Aqueduct | H. The forces that a bridge must resist, including the weight of the bridge and passing traffic, wind loads, and earthquakes loads. |
| J Beam Bridge | I. A bridge's roadway or surface that allows traffic and pedestrians to cross. It is usually made of wood, steel, concrete, or grating, often covered with a crossing surface such as asphalt for cars, or rails for trains. |
| K Compression | J. The simplest kind of bridge, with a straight beam crossing a gap. Because this kind of bridge is not particularly strong, a single beam cannot cross a wide gap. |
| M Pier | K. A force that tends to push something together or crush it. |
| G Truss bridge | L. Limitations or conditions that a design must satisfy. For example, a bridge might need to be at least a certain height, cost no more than a certain amount, and be safe in an earthquake that measures 7.0 on the Richter scale. |
| I Deck | M. A tower set in water to support a bridge. |
| L Constraints | N. The part of a bridge or length of the bridge deck between supports. |