

# Project glossary

## **abutment**

A structure that is built to support an arch.

.....

## **aqueduct**

A bridge that transports water across a gap.

.....

## **arch**

A curved structure that holds the weight of something above it.

.....

## **arch bridge**

A type of bridge where a curved arch is supported by abutments at each end.

.....

## **beam**

A long, thick piece of wood, metal or concrete, especially used to support weight on a bridge or other structure.

.....

## **beam bridge**

A type of bridge with a horizontal beam and support piers.

.....

## **bridge**

A structure that provides a safe route over an obstacle, such as a river, valley or road.

.....

## **compression**

A pushing force that squashes or makes something smaller.

.....

## **concertina**

Folds made alternately to the front and back of a material.

.....

## **distort**

To change the original shape of something.

.....

## **engineer**

A person who designs or builds machines, electrical equipment or structures such as roads, railways and bridges.

.....

## **iron**

A strong metal used to make steel.

**span**

The length of something from one end to the other.

.....

**steel**

A strong metal alloy made from iron and carbon.

.....

**support pier**

A thick, strong column used to support a structure, such as a bridge.

.....

**suspension bridge**

A type of bridge where the roadway is hung from vertical cables supported by towers.

.....

**tension**

A pulling force that pulls things apart.

.....

**truss**

A triangular framework that supports a bridge, roof or other structure.

.....

**truss bridge**

A type of bridge that is like a beam bridge but uses triangular shapes called trusses.