DESIGN A BRIDGE

PROBLEM:

Earth's topography has many natural and man-made obstacles that make it difficult or impossible for human movement.

CHALLENGE:

Design a bridge that is at least 6 inches long and can bear weight.

Materials

- Toothpicks
- Marshmallows
- Popsicle sticks
- Drinking straws
- Tape
- Rubber Bands
- Cardboard
- Pennies or other materials to test weight

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- What is the purpose of this bridge?
- Which of the seven types of bridges is best for the purpose of the bridge?
- Are there environmental factors that need to be considered? (surrounding landscape, weather conditions, earthquakes, etc.)

Fun Fact

The Abraham Lincoln Memorial Bridge is the longest bridge in Illinois, spanning 7,122 feet!

BEHIND THE SCENES:

Bridges are constructed to allow humans to travel over natural and man-made obstacles that might otherwise be difficult or impossible. The creation of materials like mortar and steel allowed engineers to design and build bridges that were longer and could hold more weight. Bridges not only connect communities, they also create new and more efficient pathways for travel.