- Glossary -

Abutment: A structure made of concrete that acts as a support at either end of a bridge.

Arch: A curved structure which acts as a support.

Architect: A person who designs buildings and oversees the construction. He or she must plan for the purpose, weather and the materials available to construct the building.

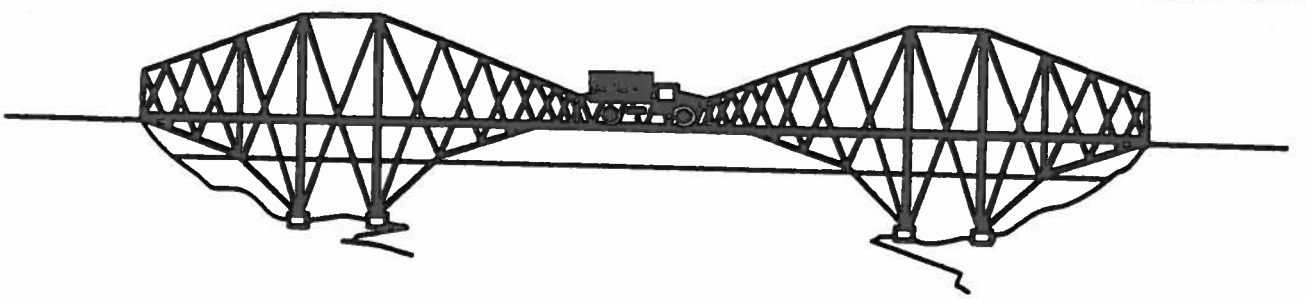
Anchorage: The ends of the suspension cables are attached to the anchorages. The anchorages are usually large concrete blocks that can withstand a pull of 10,000 tonnes on the bridge.

Beam: A long piece of either wood, concrete or metal that lays horizontally. Beams are joined with columns or posts to form the framework of a building.

Cable: A steel rope that bears the weight and supports the roadway on a suspension bridge.

Cantilever: A structure or framework that is attached at one end only. When two of these frameworks are facing each other and are either joined or have a connection attachment joining them, it forms a cantilever bridge.

Cantilever bridge



Cement: A powder that when mixed with water, dries to a hard consistency. It consists of alumina, silica, lime, iron oxide, and magnesia which are burned in a kiln and powdered.

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Column:	A long piece of wood, concrete or metal that is vertical. Columns attach to beams to form the framework of a building.
Concrete:	Building material that is make of sand, gravel, cement. When these items are mixed with water, it forms a thick paste which dries very hard. To make the concrete even stronger, builders add steel bars to the paste. This is called *reinforced concrete*.
Core:	A central large area that runs up the middle of a tower or high-rise. This area supports elevators, pipes, etc. Its role is similar to that of a spinal column.
Deck:	The section of the bridge that is the roadway or walkway.
Dome:	A structure in which the sides and top curve together to form a spherical shape.
Foundation:	The lowest part, or base of a structure which is often below ground level. The foundation supports and holds a building to the ground.
Framework:	A structure of beams, and columns which are joined and give a building its shape.
Girder:	A long beam which is make of concrete or steel.
Keystone:	The central stone at the top of an arch. The stones that make up the curved sides of the arch are inserted against the middle block. This pressure holds the arch up.
Pile:	A post or pillar that is driven into the ground to support the footings of a foundation.
Pillar:	A firm, vertical support for a structure.
Slab:	A type of building foundation consisting of a level, concrete base.
Span:	The distance between two abutments or supports of a bridge or roadway.
Strut:	A structural piece which gives support and strength to a structure.
Suspension Towers:	Tall structures that support the suspension bridge.

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Tension:	The act of pulling on the two ends of a cable or rope.
Truss:	A structure using a series of triangular shapes which are connected. Trusses are used to add strength to part of a building.
Wind Drift:	The distance a skyscraper sways horizontally from its original position when it is very windy.

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