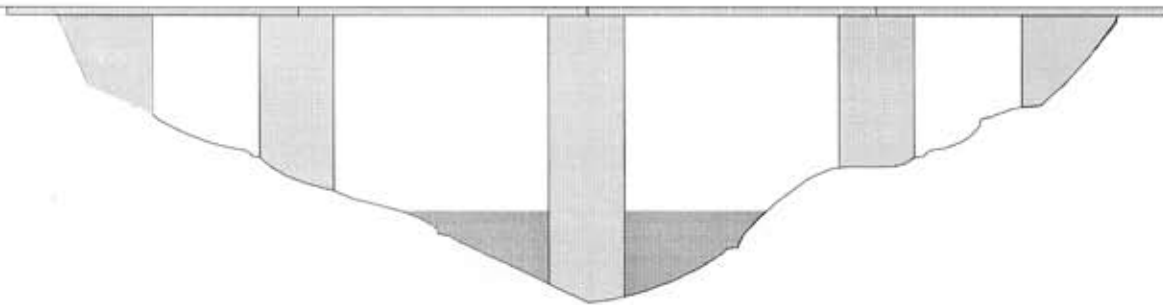


Kinds of Bridges

There are four main kinds of bridges. The first kind is a **beam bridge**. A beam is made from strong pieces of steel. Beam bridges are used for shorter spans. The **span** of a bridge is how long it is from one end to the other.



The second kind of bridge is the **arch bridge**. Arch bridges were first built from stone. Builders first made a **centering frame** from wood. Stones were built on either side until they met at the top. When the stones were in place, builders took out the centering frame. Arch bridges are made from iron and concrete today.

