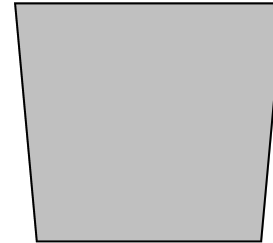


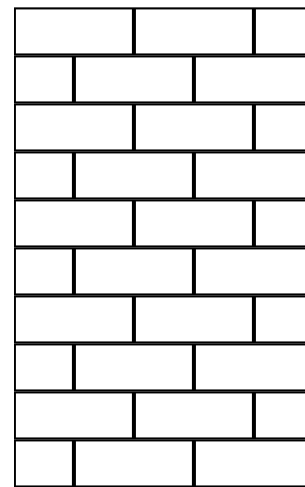
Roman arch



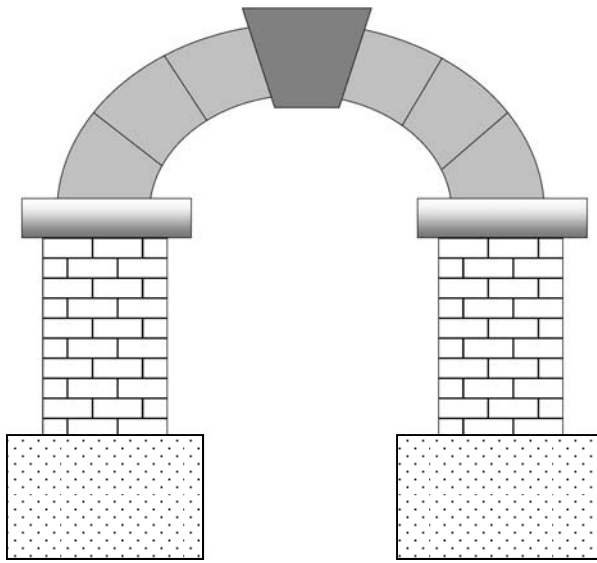
voussoir



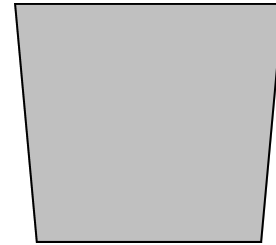
impost



pier



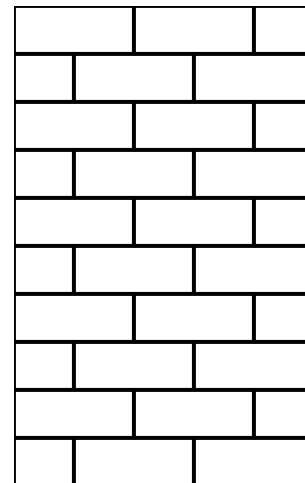
Roman arch



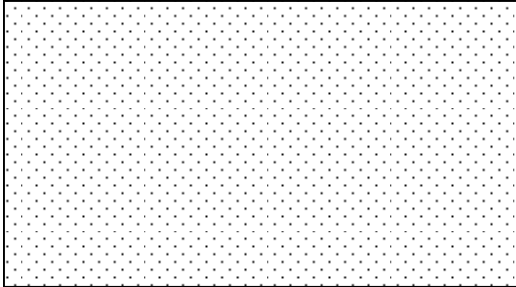
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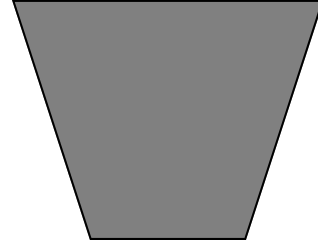
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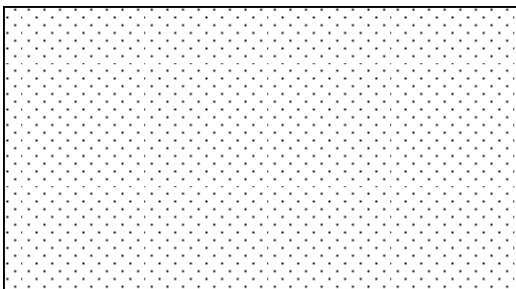
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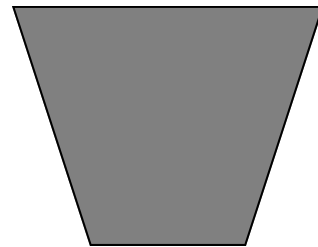
foundation



keystone



foundation



keystone

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>An arch is a curving structure that spans a space without any inner support. In an arch structure, all of the elements hold each other in place. They were often used in ancient Rome in buildings and bridges.</p> | <p>A vousoir is a wedge-shaped element, usually made of stone, used in the building of an arch. Two specialized voussoirs are the keystone, the top voussoir, and the springer, the lowest voussoir.</p> |
| <p>An impost is the topmost part of an architectural column. Also called an abacus, it is usually a flat piece of stone. It can be carved or decorated.</p> | <p>A pier is a solid block of masonry supporting an arch. They are often made of stone, but those serving as primary support for large arches are usually made of concrete.</p> |
| <p>The foundation is a large stone that is set into the ground. The piers are then built on top of it. It transfers the weight of the arch to the soil in the ground.</p> | <p>A keystone is a type of voussoir. It is always at the top of an arch and can be decorated or larger in size. The keystone helps to lock the other pieces of the arch in place.</p> |

Instructions: print on cardstock and laminate. Cut cards apart. Children can use the control cards to match the pictures, labels, and definitions together.

There are lots of books with gorgeous pictures of Roman architecture, so you might want to take a trip to the library to find some.

While studying the arch, children might be interested in other features of Roman architecture, including columns, domes, bridges, and aqueducts. Have them use a child-safe search engine like <http://kids.yahoo.com/> to find articles and information.

The picture on the next page is of an arch used in an aqueduct, which is a water supply channel used to bring water from one place to another. The Romans did not invent aqueducts, but they frequently built them with the arch-style construction.

