



What You Need

- piece of $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" paper
- 6 books
- 100 pennies
- ruler

PAPER BRIDGE



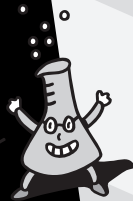
- 1 Make **two stacks** of books of equal height. Place them **6 inches** apart.
- 2 Make a **bridge** by putting a sheet of paper across the books.
- 3 **Put** some pennies on the bridge. How many pennies can the bridge support before it **falls down**? What happens if the pennies are in the **center** of the bridge or **spread across** the bridge?
- 4 How can you make the bridge **stronger**? Try **bending, folding, or tearing** the paper.
- 5 **Test** your bridge again by **adding** pennies one at a time. **How many pennies** can your bridge support?
- 6 **How** can you **change the design** of your bridge to support more pennies?



What happens if you **remove parts** of the bridge that you think are **NOT** needed for strength? Make a **prediction**. Then use a hole puncher or scissors to **test** it. Which parts of the bridge are the **strongest**? How can you make those parts even stronger to support **more pennies**? **Send** your ideas and results to ZOOM at pbskids.org/zoom/sci

Science Scoop

How can you make a **weak** material like paper **strong** enough to support a load of pennies? One way is to **change its shape** by rolling it in a tube, crumpling it, or folding it. The ZOOM cast made a strong bridge by **folding** the paper like a fan. How did **you** make a strong bridge?



Sent in by Kimberly B. of Port Moody, British Columbia, Canada



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