AMAZING ARCHES

MUSEUM
AT ELDRIEDE STREET
What is an arch?

An arch is a curved symmetrical structure and is typically used to support the weight of buildings, bridges and other structures.
There are over 30 different types of arches and can be found all over the world from cathedrals, aqueducts and natural rock formations.

- Pointed Arch, Reims Cathedral, France
- Round Arches, Roman Aqueducts, France
- Horseshoe Arch, Mosque of Cordoba, Spain
VOCABULARY

VOUSSOIR: A wedge shaped stone used to construct arches.

ABUTMENT: Supports at the end of an arch that help carry the load and prevent the arch from spreading out.

KEYSTONE: A wedge shaped stone that is placed in the center of the arch. It is the last piece put in and locks the stones in place, allowing the arch to bear weight.

CLICK ON THE NEXT SLIDE TO SEE HOW AN ARCH IS BUILT

ANIMATION COURTESY OF THE CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE
MAKE YOUR OWN ARCH!

Photo courtesy of the Center for Architecture
MATERIALS

- 8 oz takeout containers (13-15)
- A strip of cardboard
- Scotch or masking tape
- Markers (optional)
- Paint & brushes (optional)
- Decorative paper & paste (optional)
- Start by building the base of your arch at both ends of the cardboard. This is also a great project to do with a partner!

- You are going to tape and stack the takeout containers with the openings facing outward. To build the curve shape you want to stack the boxes in a downward tilting position.

- Keep stacking the containers until they meet in the middle. A sturdy arch requires an odd number of containers. Your last container will act as a keystone, locking the arch into place.
DECORATE!

- Choose materials for decorating. You can download the decorative paper from the museum’s Learning From Home page.

- Test the strength of your arch by placing a heavy object on top of it.
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