

POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

Lesson Plan

Bridge Builders

Lesson Plan for *Ants*

Grade 1

Objective

To help students design a bridge based on how ants construct living bridges in order to cross wide gaps.

Things Needed

- *Ants* book
- Access to the “Ants” web page on the Pop! website:
<https://popbooksonline.com/underground-animals/ants>
- Four rubber balls
- Eight desk chairs
- Popsicle sticks
- Tape
- Yarn

Before the Activity

Open the “Ants” web page in your internet browser. Pull up the “Learn More” tab. Divide students into four groups. Give each group a rubber ball and two chairs, placing the chairs slightly apart so there is a 12-inch gap between them. Place the building supplies out on a table.

Activity

Ants are not only master builders when it comes to digging their nests. They also work together to create living bridges. Read the text on the “Learn More” tab aloud to students. Zoom in on the photo so students can see how the ants lock their legs together.

Explain that people often get ideas for building and design from animals. Today, students will work together to build a bridge between two chairs. Each group should design the bridge so that a rubber ball can roll across the gap between the two chairs.



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Give students time to discuss as a group how they want to construct their bridge. They should decide on its shape and the materials they'll use. Then, students should use the supplies to construct their bridge. They can test their design by trying to roll the ball across it. If their first idea doesn't work, they can brainstorm solutions together and change their design. For example, they might add railings to keep the ball from rolling off the side. After each group has successfully rolled their ball from one chair to another, have groups share their creations with the rest of the class. Ask students to describe their bridge design.

Evaluation

Were students able to work together to build a bridge? Could each group's bridge guide the ball between the chairs?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.1, 1.2), and the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard E, grades K–4.

