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Build a bridge and get over it:
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OUTLAWS

YOU would all have seen an "invasive mammal" at one time or another in Tasmania.

Probably not a European red fox, or a feral pig, but almost certainly a European rabbit.

DPIPWE's (the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment) Biosecurity Tasmania leads the effort to keep Tasmania safe, and not just from mammals that can harm our environment.

Biosecurity Tasmania deal with all sorts of threats, including threats to human health like COVID-19.

But back to those mammals.

Others that are threats to Tasmania include feral cats and goats, even ferrets.

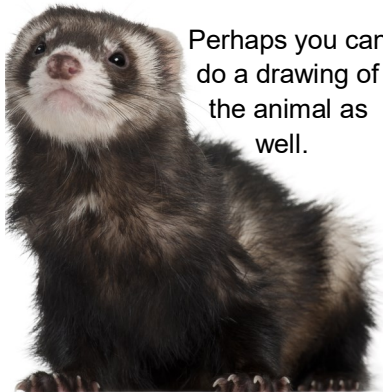
Your challenge is to produce a report on one of these animals.

You could report on an encounter you have had with an "invasive mammal".

Or perhaps write about a sighting a friend or family member has told you about (ask for their permission first).

It is always useful to think about questions like what, where and when?

Present your findings in a creative way; your report does not have to be written.



Perhaps you can do a drawing of the animal as well.

WANTED

"UNWANTED" might be more appropriate.

The European red fox could prey on Tasmanian native animals, including endangered species, and compete for food with native carnivores (meat eaters) like the Tasmanian devil.

Whether foxes are already established in Tasmania or not, remains a mystery.

There have been many historical reports of fox escapes and deliberate introductions to our state.

Famously, a fox was reported escaping from a container ship in Burnie in 1998, having hitched a ride from the mainland.

Despite many subsequent reported sightings in the area, the fox was never found.

What all experts agree upon though is that we don't want foxes here.

Foxes were introduced in Victoria in 1871 and are now found in most of mainland Australia.

They have been linked to the extinction of many small and medium-sized rodents and marsupials.



A fox's coat can be red, reddish brown or even grey; their underbelly is white; and the lower part of their legs are black.

They have large ears, a bushy tail and long black whiskers around their face.

You can help keep Tasmania safe from invasive mammals by reporting sightings of foxes, feral goats, feral pigs, ferrets and wild dogs to Biosecurity Tasmania:

Phone: 03 61653777

Email: invasivespecies@dPIPWE.tas.gov.au

Images: iStock.com/GlobalP/wabeno/ JMrocek

Share projects inspired by *The Wonder Weekly* with us.
Email: UnderwoodCentre.Enquiries@utas.edu.au

Hop into a game of agility

HOPSCOTCH is a great game to play in small areas.

You start by marking out a court, possibly with chalk on a concrete path.

But you could use a rope or brightly-coloured string for your court.

The image below is an example, but you can come up with your own design.

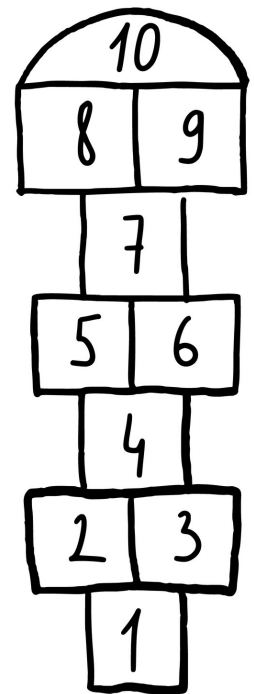


Image: iStock.com/Syuzanna Guseynova

You will also need a "lucky", a small stone will do, which you toss into the squares.

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Thank you to Woolworths Supermarkets for printing and distributing *The Wonder Weekly* in stores statewide.



A weighty problem

HUMAN-MADE bridges have existed since Neolithic times. Possibly the earliest bridges were deliberately-felled trees or stepping stones; a far cry from a modern-wonder like the Golden Gate Bridge, main picture (a suspension bridge).

Have you ever wondered how bridges can span great distances and carry heavy loads?

Bridges are strong because of the materials that are made to build them, but also because of the smart designs that are thought up by engineers.

There are many types of bridges. For example:

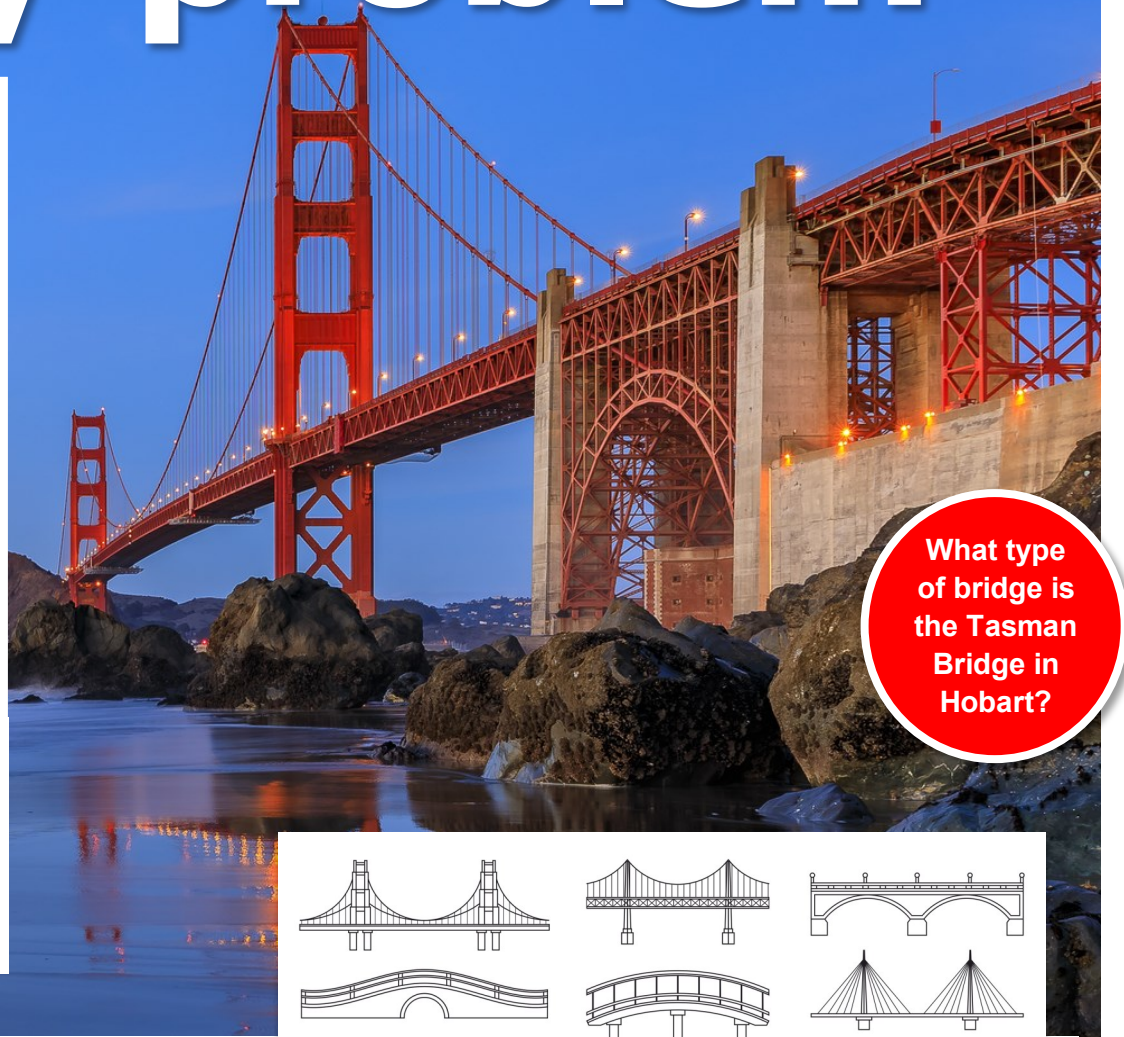
1. Beam bridges are a simple design. A long strip of carboard between two blocks is an example of a beam bridge.
2. Truss bridges use triangles which are really strong for building. The long string of triangles you will often see in bridges is called a truss. Trusses help spread out the weight that the bridge has to carry.
3. Suspension bridges use a force called tension (pulling something tight). The deck is hung from thick cables which are supported by tall towers and anchored (held down tightly) at each end.



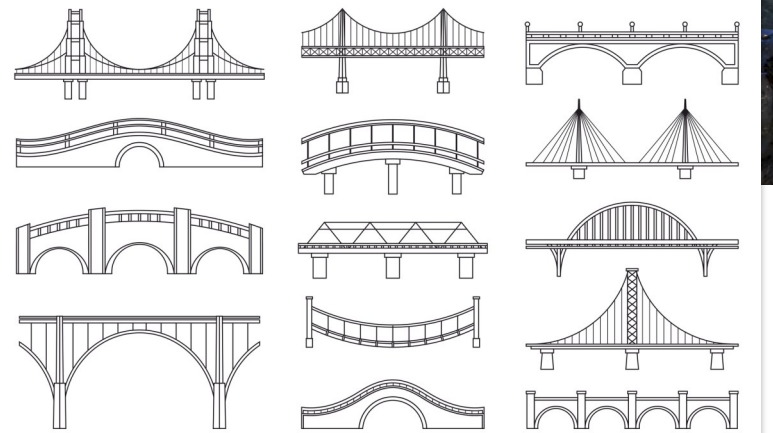
The Batman Bridge spans the Tamar River (kanamaluka) in northern Tasmania.

Completed in 1968, it was the first "cable-stayed bridge" in Australia, and one of the first in the world.

Images: iStock.com/SvetlanaSF, Natalia Darmoroz



What type of bridge is the Tasman Bridge in Hobart?



Your challenge is to design and build a bridge.

Start by selecting materials.

You can use any item you can find around the house— paper, paper clips, cardboard, cardboard rolls, icy pole sticks, plastic cups, string, rubber bands, elastic, pegs; some sticky tape is probably essential.

If you want a really tough challenge, follow this link to

learn about building a spaghetti bridge: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pp9U6lyolqg

If you use paper, think about ways you can strengthen it (e.g. folding it in various ways).

If you want to, you could draw a design.

Experiment with different designs and materials.

Span the space between two level stacks of books or perhaps two chairs, and then

test your bridges by applying weight to the deck (the part that you travel on).

You could use toy cars or wooden blocks, adding a little weight at a time.

Children's University Tasmania members can earn stamps in their passports for this engineering challenge, at the discretion of their school coordinators.

Hop into a game of agility

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Any numbers of players can play hopscotch, and you can practice on your own.

The first aim is to toss your lucky into square one (it must land and stay within the lines).

You must then jump over that square into the next square (or squares).

You must land in a single square on one leg, but where


there are two squares next to each other, you can put both feet down.

When you get to the end square, turn around and come back, picking up your lucky on the way.

If you can return to the start without stepping on a line, you move on to square two.

The winner is the player who completes every square first.

WORD SCRAMBLER

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| PHALEENT _____ | Image: iStock.com/Donvanstaden |  |
| BRAZE _____ | | |
| PARDLEO _____ | EASTDEBWIL _____ | |
| GRAFFIE _____ | HEANY _____ | |
| NILO _____ | HINOCERROS _____ | |

Crossword No.2 solution (check your answers)

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Across | 10. Coral | 2. Launceston |
| 3. Antarctica | 11. Nile | 4. Cook |
| 5. Pacific | | 6. Indian |
| 7. Tasman | Down | 8. Macquarie |
| 9. Mediterranean | 1. Strait | |

Crossword No.4 - Sport

Across

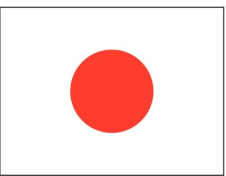
1. The Hobart Hurricanes play this sport
3. When soccer players use their heads
5. Animal involved in a game of polo
6. The Australian netball team are known as the ...
8. Number of sports in a triathlon
10. Homeland of Ashleigh Barty
11. Sport played with a shuttlecock

Down

1. AFL club known as the Magpies
2. Swimming stroke
4. Number of rings on the Olympic flag
7. Long athletics race
9. The Sydney-Hobart is a famous race in this sport

For an additional challenge, try producing your own crossword.

Guess the country?



□ □ □ □ n

Solution next week.