

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2015 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s) Project Number

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J0304

Project Title

Which Bridge?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

Compare 3 bridge designs with regards to their ability to hold a fixed amount of weight. The 3 bridge designs were Arch, Cable-stay, and Beam. We also considered the amount of time and resources it took to make each bridge.

Methods/Materials

Balsa, Pine and Bass wood

Scale

I-bolts

String

Bottles of water

Results

The arch design had the least sag with a fixed weight. Cable-stay was second while the Beam designed sagged the most. The Beam was easiest to build with the least resources with Arch being second and Cable-stay being third.

Conclusions/Discussion

Bridges using the arch design are the strongest but moderately difficult to build. We think the arch bridge is strongest because it is supported at 4 different points.

Summary Statement

The varying strength of bridges based on their design

Help Received

Parents helped refine idea. Teacher helped with board appearance