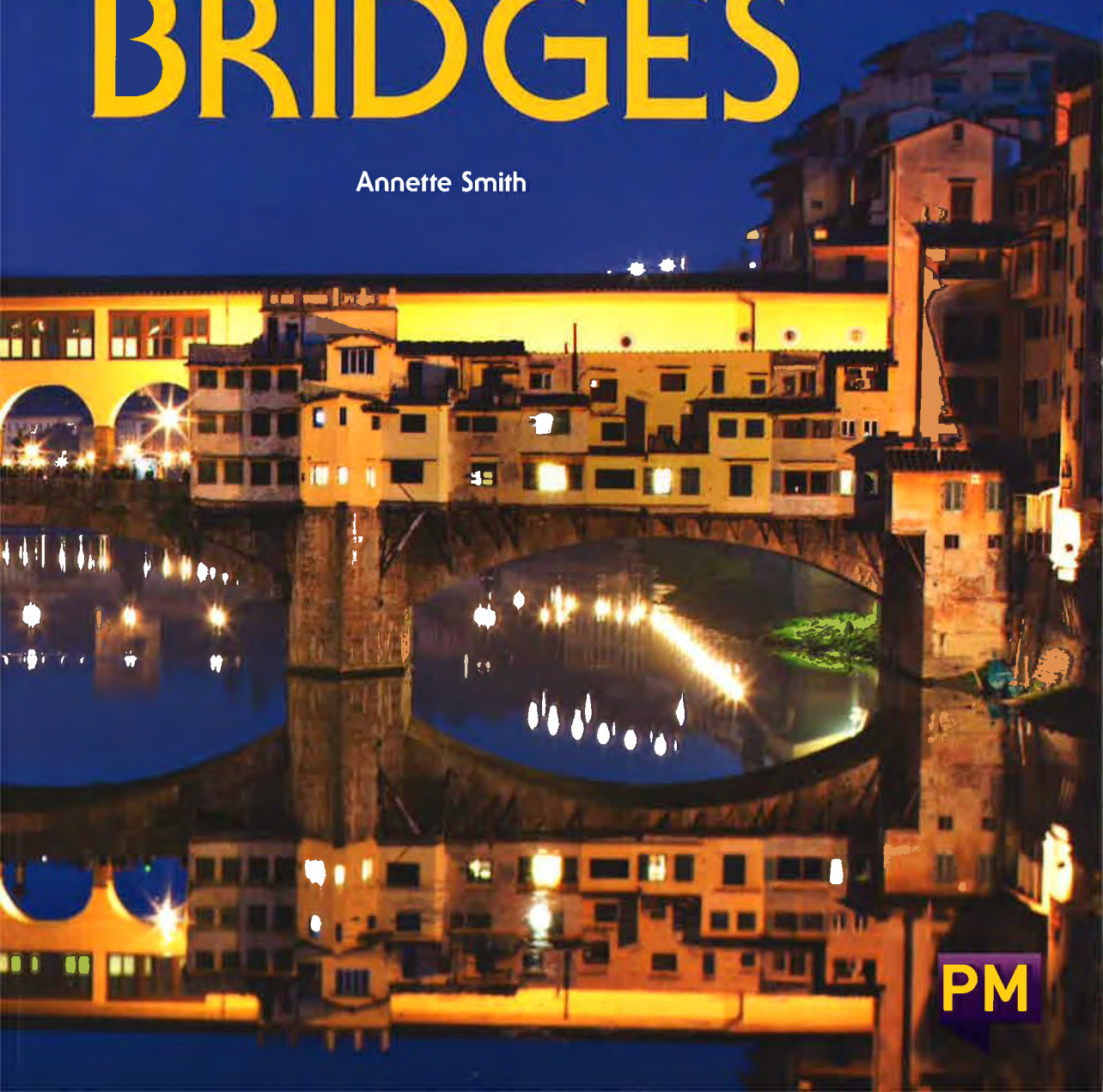
FAMOUS BRIDGES

Annette Smith



PM

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Famous Bridges

Level 25 **Curriculum Area** Humanities – Geography
Running Words 2052 **Text Types** Information Report (Informative) pages 2–25
Response (Informative) pages 26–30

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the information report and response in his or her own words. Record the retellings for further discussion and reflection.

Think and Talk About ...

Fact boxes in the book encourage each student to explore the statements further and to share the information with others.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 Why is Chapel Bridge in Switzerland unique?
2 Which bridge has verandahs and towers that look like birds flapping their wings?

Inferential

3 Why are some aqueducts built thousands of years ago still standing today?
4 Why were 1000 workers needed to build the Pont du Gard?
5 Why do so many people use Tower Bridge in London every day?
6 Why are trams no longer used on Sydney Harbour Bridge?
7 Why are architects careful about the natural landscape when designing bridges?

Applied Knowledge

8 How do earthquakes affect a bridge?
9 What is a cable-stay pillar?

Ponte Vecchio: A Magical Place

Literal

1 Why is Ponte Vecchio a beautiful setting for photography?

Inferential

2 Why were workshops for butchers and tanners originally built on the sides of Ponte Vecchio?

Applied Knowledge

3 Why did the Romans build bridges throughout Europe and the United Kingdom?

Vocabulary

Replace the adjective 'breathtaking' in this sentence:
Visitors to Florence find Ponte Vecchio a breathtaking place to experience.

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 25 Book Information Report/Exposition *The Arctic Circle*

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Bridge Designs

Bridges are designed to transport people, animals, vehicles and freight from one location to another. A bridge might cross small areas of water or land, cavernous valleys or hazardous seas.

People from the earliest **civilisations** made simple forms of bridges. They used natural materials, such as the trunks of fallen trees, which were dragged into position across streams, narrow rivers and small valleys.



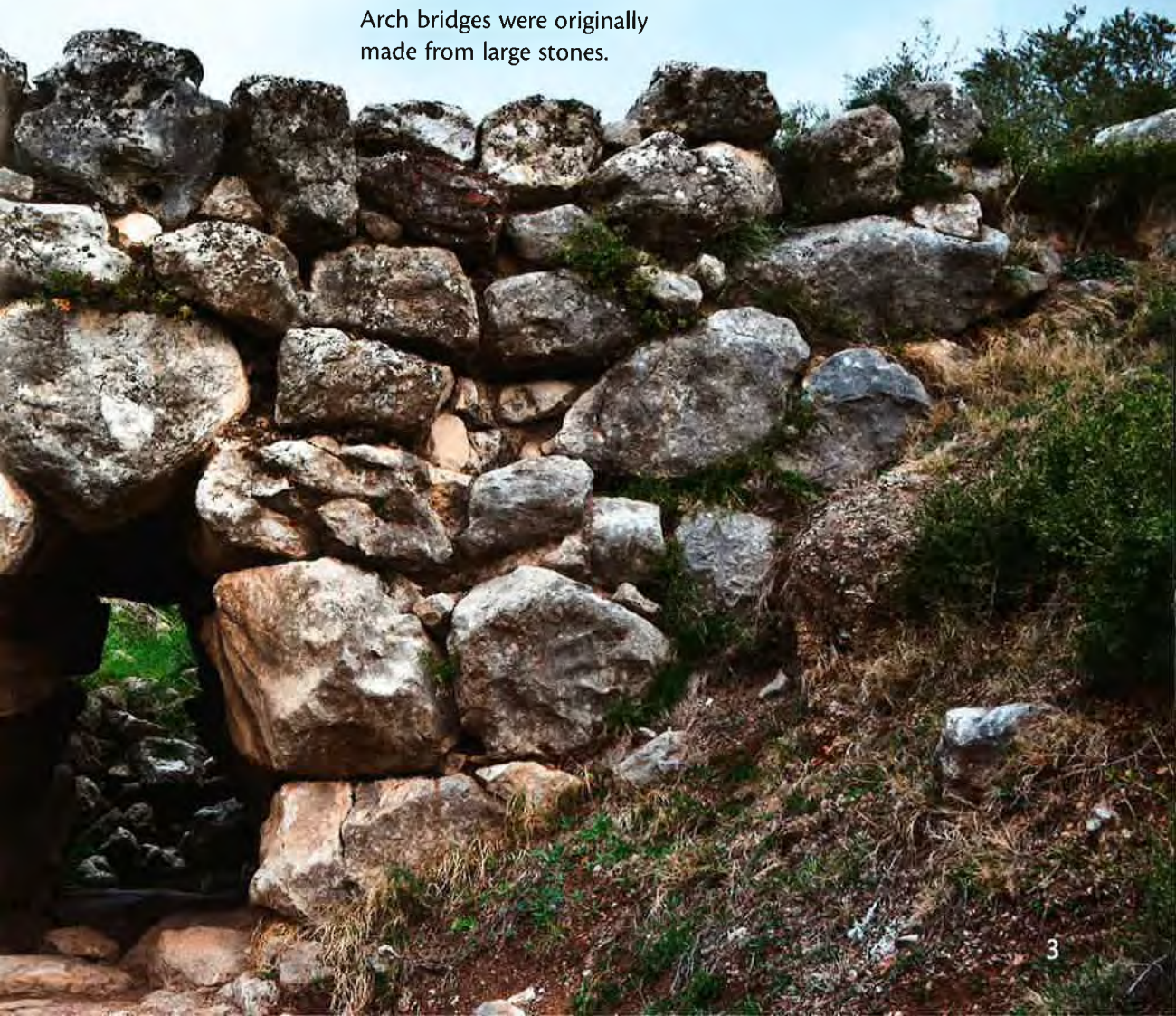
Think and Talk About ...

Engineers today commonly use early bridge designs: beam (a simple bridge often made from a log or wood plank), arch (a curved bridge usually made from stone or brick) and suspension (a bridge that is hung below cables).

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Stone bridges were built with large rocks to make roads over uneven ground for animals and carts.

Forest vines and creepers were twisted together to form strong ropes. The ropes were suspended high above deep **ravines**, allowing people to cross quickly and safely.

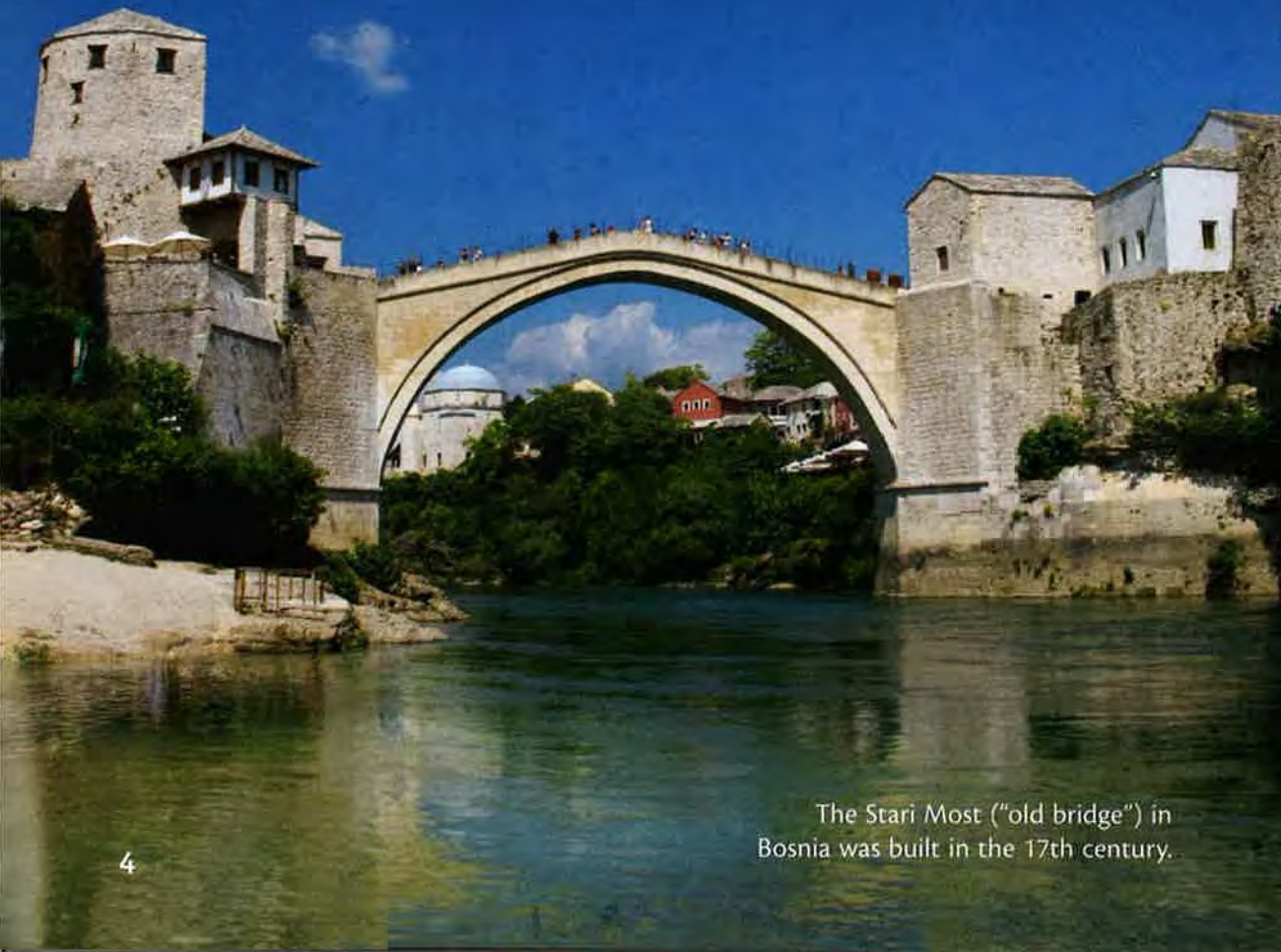


Arch bridges were originally made from large stones.

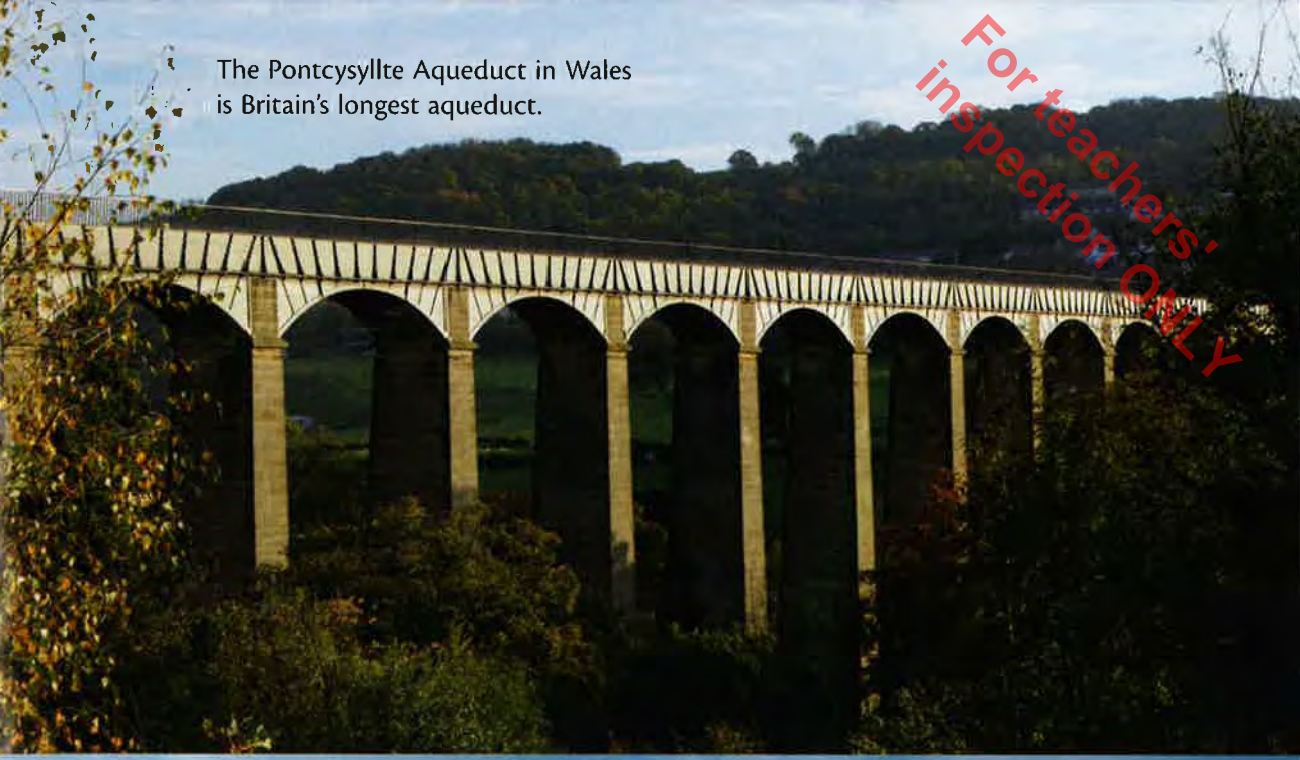
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Thousands of years ago, Greeks and Romans built huge **aqueducts** from stone, to transport water needed for drinking, bathing and irrigating crops. Several of these massive constructions can still be seen in parts of Europe and the United Kingdom.

Many bridges today, and from years gone by, have become famous for their design, as well as the skills and materials used for their construction.

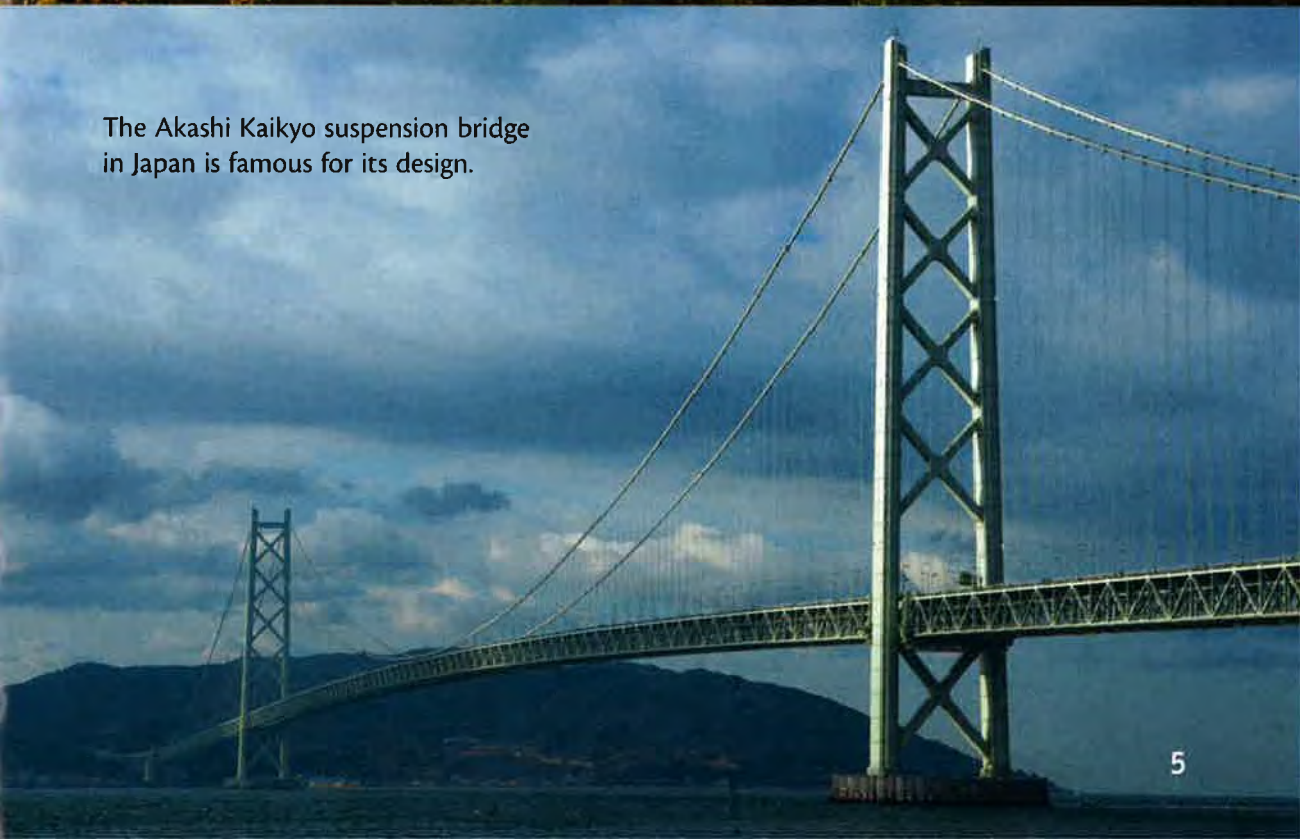


The Stari Most ("old bridge") in Bosnia was built in the 17th century.



The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct in Wales is Britain's longest aqueduct.

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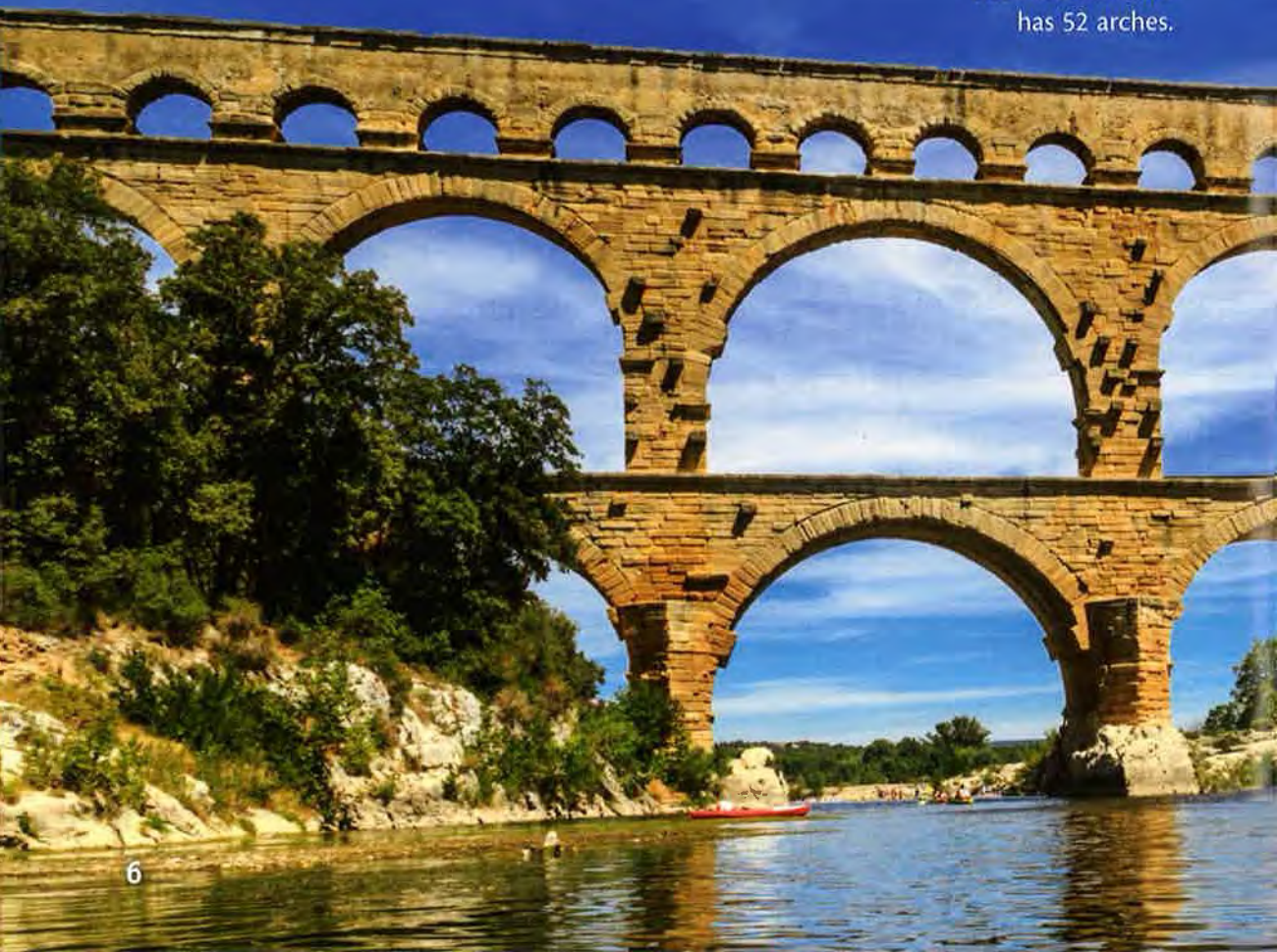


The Akashi Kaikyo suspension bridge in Japan is famous for its design.

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Pont du Gard Nimes, France

One of the most famous bridges in the world is the Pont du Gard, in southern France. It is a three-level stone aqueduct, built by the Romans more than 2000 years ago. It was constructed to transport water over the Gardon River Valley to the city of Nemausus. Today, the city is known as Nimes.



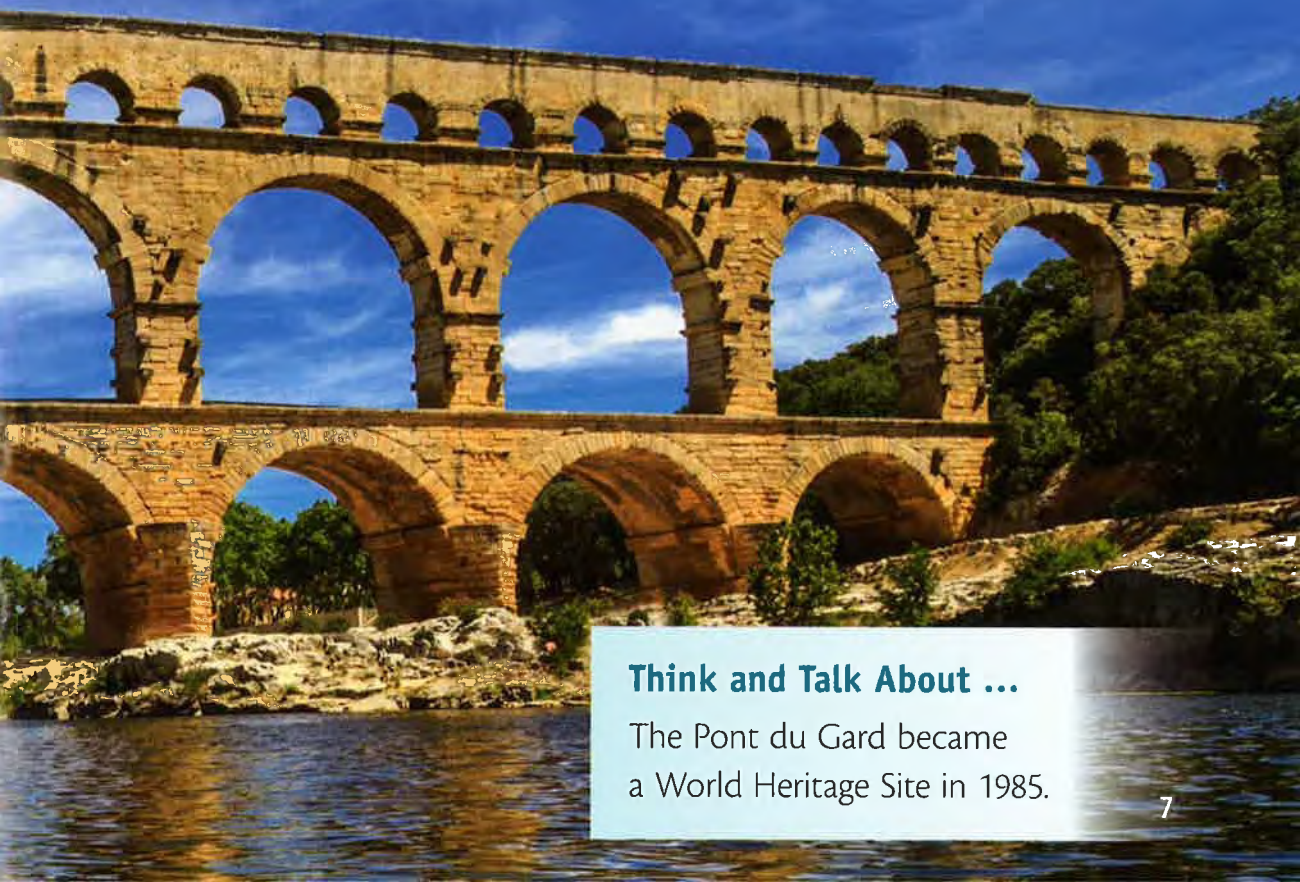
The Pont du Gard has 52 arches.

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The Pont du Gard is an arch bridge. The design has many arches because the bridge is so wide. The arches spread the weight of the long beams above, making the bridge very strong.

The Pont du Gard was constructed with blocks of **limestone** rock. The rock came from a nearby quarry, on the banks of the river. These huge blocks were held together with **clamps** made of iron. The bridge was believed to have taken 1000 workers three years to build.

Today, the Pont du Gard is not used as an aqueduct or for transporting vehicles. It has become a major tourist attraction.



Think and Talk About ...

The Pont du Gard became a World Heritage Site in 1985.

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People have been making bridges for thousands of years. The oldest bridges were made of tree trunks and rocks. Today, there are many bridges that are well known all over the world. Some are famous for their design, while others are famous for their engineering.



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