



The Pont du Gard aqueduct in southern France was part of a system that carried mountain water to the city of Nîmes.

INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can design your own aqueduct and find out more about Roman tools and building skills, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com

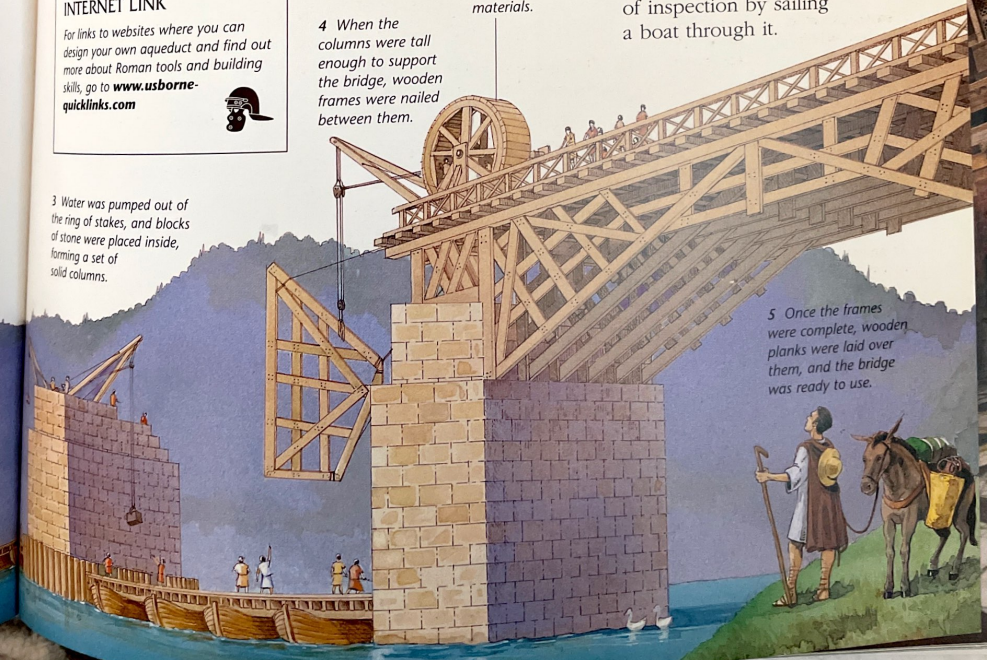


3 Water was pumped out of the ring of stakes, and blocks of stone were placed inside, forming a set of solid columns.

4 When the columns were tall enough to support the bridge, wooden frames were nailed between them.

A wooden crane was used for lifting and lowering building materials.

5 Once the frames were complete, wooden planks were laid over them, and the bridge was ready to use.



WATER FOR ALL

Once the water reached a city, it was collected in huge tanks and fed through a network of lead pipes into the public fountains, toilets and baths. Only wealthy people could afford to have water piped to their homes, but some resourceful Romans attached their own illegal pipes to the public water system.

STUPENDOUS SEWERS

Roman engineers designed elaborate networks of underground drains to take away sewage and waste from their cities. The most famous Roman sewer was the *Cloaca Maxima* in Rome. It was so enormous that one city engineer made his tour of inspection by sailing a boat through it.