

How It Feels To Be A Structure

Application of Architectural Concepts

Another structural form is the arch.

- Have each pair of students stand facing each other a little way apart, with arms raised above the head, and fingers touching each other. Have them do steps A, B, and C in this position.

Suggested dialogue:

"How did your body feel different than when you were posts and lintels? Where do you think the weakest point of the arch is? (At the top, where the hands join.) However, the top can become the strongest point, when a wedge shaped stone called a keystone is fitted in at the top."

Have the pairs stand in a row with their feet touching the next pair. When you have a series of arches in a row, it is called an arcade.

- Have the pairs stand side-by-side, while they face each other. When a series of arches are put together this way, they form a barrel vault.

Have groups of about eight students form a circle and join hands in the center, with their feet touching the feet of the people on either side of them. When a series of arches meet in the center, they form a dome.

- Another rather energetic way to experience an arch is to do a back bend. When books are loaded on the center of this arch, you will know how it feels to be a keystone!

