

How It Feels To Be A Structure

Application of Architectural Concepts

The strongest structural form is a triangle.

"Remember the first thing we did when you put your fingers together with lower arms against each other? Do that again and press your fingers and thumbs together with your arms out at the sides. That feels much stronger, doesn't it? Look at the triangles your fingers and arms have formed-they are what makes it feel so much stronger."

15. Have pairs of students place their feet together and join hands, trying both the B and C inter-locking positions.

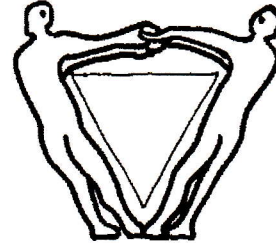
"How does that feel? Can you lean back much farther than you could if your arms were not inter-locked?"

"A triangle is a very strong shape."

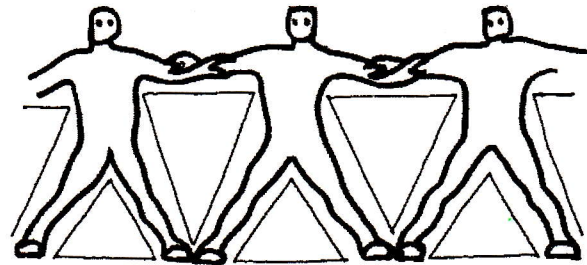
"What you have just formed is a segment or part of a truss. A truss is a series of triangles."

16. Now have a row of students interlock arms with their feet spread apart, so they are touching the feet of the persons on either side. Each student's body has formed a triangle and the space between their bodies and their out-stretched arms has formed another triangle.

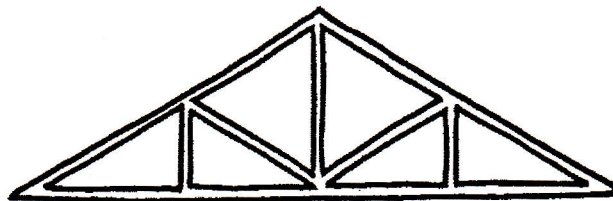
They are simulating a truss, which is a very strong structural form that can support heavy loads and span wide spaces.



TRUSS SEGMENT



TRIANGULAR TRUSS



TRIANGULAR TRUSS