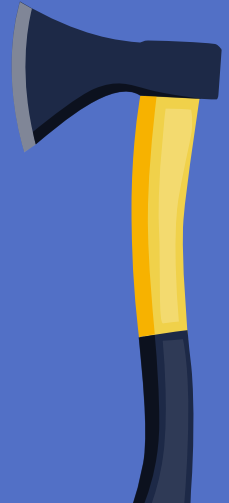


GRADE 7



CLASSIFYING STRUCTURES

STRUCTURES AND MECHANISMS UNIT





Just about everything you see is a structure: buildings, cars, trees, bicycles, your body, and so on. In this lesson, let's explore how structures can be classified.

MINDS ON



Almost everything you can see and touch is a structure. A **structure** is defined as something made up of parts that are together in a particular way for a specific purpose or purposes.

Every structure has a form and a function. The **form** is the basic shape of the structure, whereas the **function** is the job that the structure does.

Some structures are **natural** (trees, rocks, flowers, you), and some are **manufactured** or man-made (airplanes, vases, bridges). Manufactured structures are designed with their form and function in mind. Many designers and architects choose the materials to make each structure and decide how to construct it.

Form and Function of Structures

Directions

Let's take a look at this structure.
Can you determine the form and function of it?

Form



Function



How is this structure different than the one above?



EXPLORE: CLASSIFICATION OF STRUCTURES

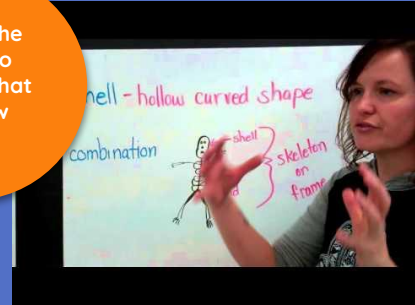


We often classify structures by looking at their *function*. Some structures are made to contain something, some structures support something on top, and some span a space (such as a bridge).

A second way to classify structures is to examine *how they are built* and what they are built from. Some structures are natural, while others are manufactured.

A third and final way to classify structures is to group them by their *forms* - solid, frame, shell or a combination of 2 or more.

Watch the video to review what we now know.



Explore the following table and determine what how each structure is classified. Drag and drop the arrows in the appropriate box in the table.



Structure	Natural	Manufactured	Shell	Frame	Solid	Combination
Spider Web						
Igloo						
Apartment Building						

EXTEND



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE STRUCTURES IN THIS IMAGE?

Directions: Drag and drop the labels to identify the structures in this image.



Solid

Frame

Shell

Combination

EXPLORE: HOW ARE STRUCTURES CLASSIFIED



Task:

Using the information you have gained, identify and describe what each type of structure is, write an example or insert an image, then determine if it is natural, manufactured or a combination of both.

Type of Structure	Describe the Structure	Examples of the Structure	Natural/Manufactured/Both
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THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

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