

# Comprehension: Informational Texts

A **biography** is a story about a person's life, written by someone else. With the help of an adult, read this biography aloud.

## Zaha Hadid

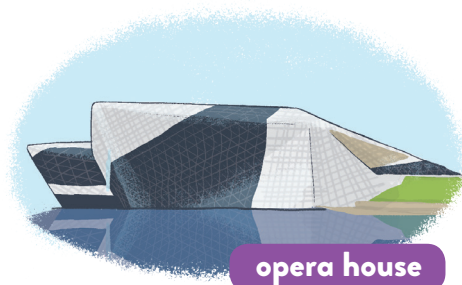
Zaha Hadid was born in Baghdad, Iraq, on October 31, 1930. In school she studied math and science. Then she became an architect. An architect is a person who designs buildings, bridges, and other structures.

Her designs were unique. They didn't look like any other buildings. Some had curved walls and wavy roofs. Some others looked like things in nature—one building was shaped like stones in a river.

Many people said that her unique buildings couldn't be built. They thought it would be too hard. But Zaha believed in her ideas. She kept drawing and designing.

Many years later, Zaha built her first building—a fire station. Then she built another building, and another. Soon she had buildings all over the world! She won awards that women had never won before.

Zaha never stopped believing in her designs. She did what she loved, no matter what people said. Her buildings show her brave ideas and determination.



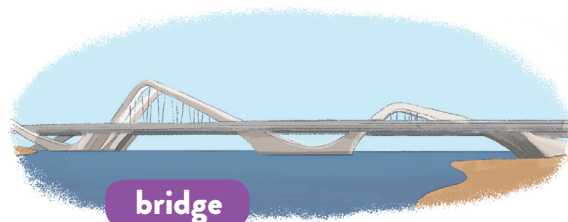
opera house



art gallery



fire station



bridge



apartment building

You can learn new information from text and from pictures.  
Write a ✓ next to how you learned each of these facts  
about Zaha and her buildings.

**Zaha was born in Iraq.**

- ☐ text  
☐ pictures

**She studied math and science.**

- ☐ text  
☐ pictures



**Zaha designed a bridge shaped like waves.**

- ☐ text  
☐ pictures

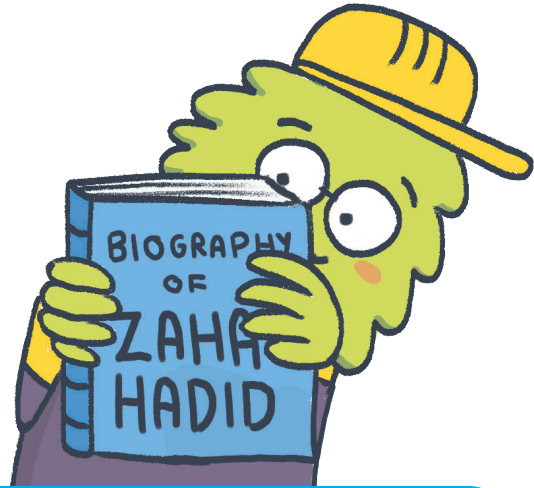
**She won awards that women had never won before.**

- ☐ text  
☐ pictures

**Some people thought her designs couldn't be built.**

- ☐ text  
☐ pictures

Answer each question according to the biography on page 58.



Did Zaha Hadid write this biography?

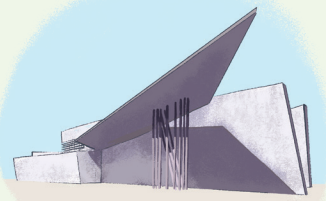
- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

What is an architect?

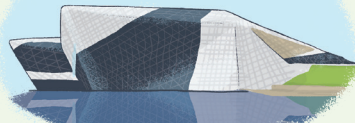
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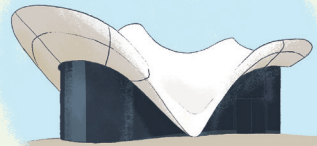
Circle Zaha's first building.



fire station



opera house



art gallery

What happened after many years that let Zaha know that believing in her ideas had worked?

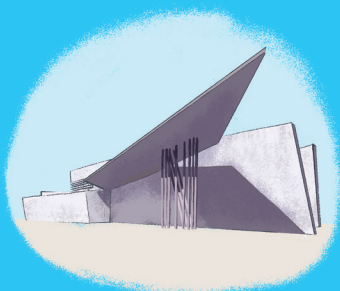
- ☐ She studied math and science.
- ☐ She won awards that women had never won before.
- ☐ She designed a building with curved walls.

Circle a word that describes Zaha.

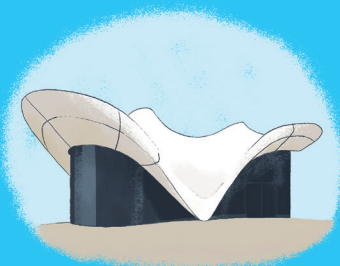
determined      bored      lazy

There are many words to describe Zaha's designs. Hunt around your home to find other objects that fit these descriptions. Then draw a picture of each one you find.

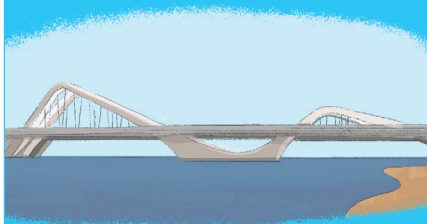
**pointy**



**round**



**wavy**



Zaha studied math and science in school so she could become an architect. Write about your favorite thing to study.

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Zaha designed some buildings to look like things in nature, like stones, rivers, and sand. Look out your window or go outside. Draw one thing that you see in nature. Then label it.

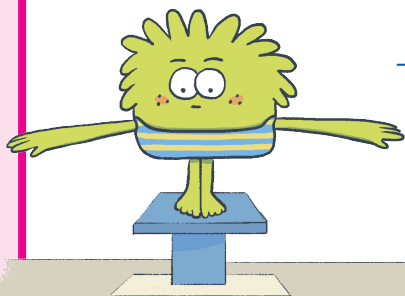
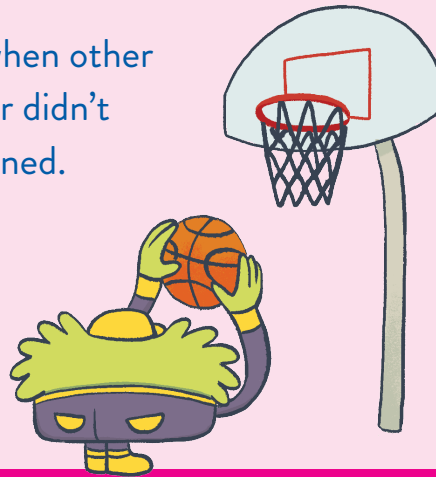
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Draw a picture of your own building design that looks like what you saw outside.

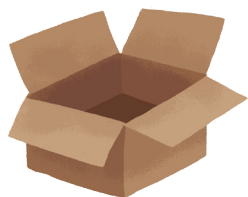
Zaha kept designing buildings even when other people didn't believe in her designs or didn't want to build them. She was determined.

Write about and draw a time that you were determined. Describe something that you kept trying even when it wasn't easy.

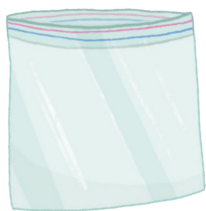


# LET'S START!

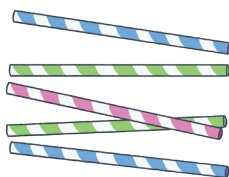
GATHER THESE TOOLS AND MATERIALS.



Small cardboard box



Sandwich bag



6–8 bendable straws



6 or more craft sticks



Tape



Paper



Markers



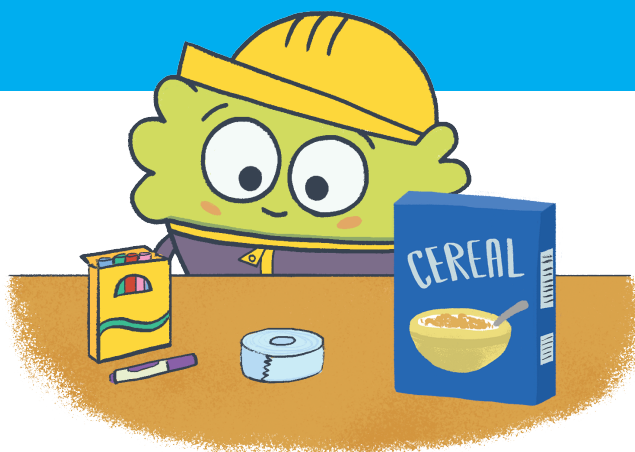
Scissors  
(with an adult's help)



Cereal box

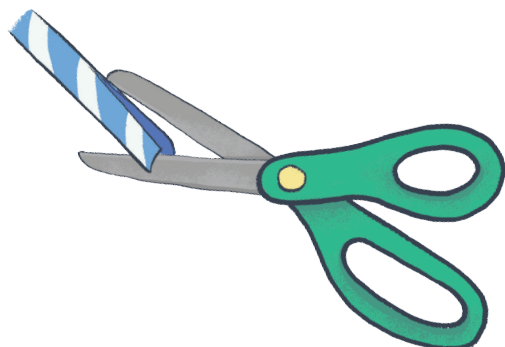
# LET'S TINKER!

**Look** at the boxes and bags that your materials came in. What can you learn from the text? What about from the pictures? **Make** a new box or bag for one of your materials. **Draw** and write what you think should be on the package.



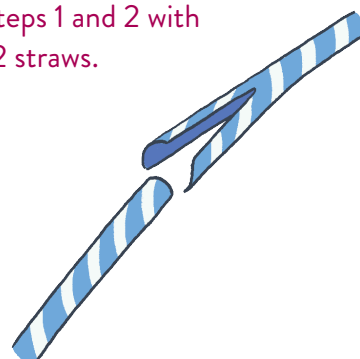
# LET'S MAKE: BRIDGE CHALLENGE!

**1. Cut** a half-inch slit in the bottom of a bendable straw.

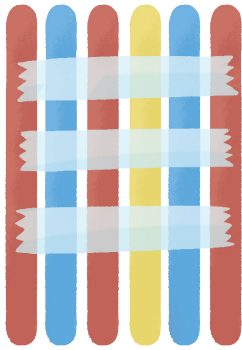


**2. Get** another bendable straw and stick the bottom of it into the slit of your first straw.

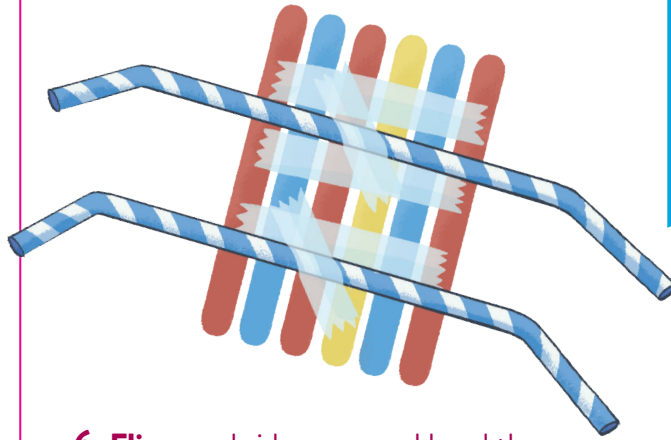
**3. Repeat** steps 1 and 2 with another 2 straws.



- 4. Tape** 6 craft sticks together in a row.



- 5. Tape** the straws to the craft sticks.



- 6. Flip** your bridge over and bend the straws to make legs.

- 7.** If your bridge is wobbly, **add** another set of straws to strengthen it. You can also **add** tape “feet” to secure the bridge to a surface, like a table.

- 8. Test** your design like an architect. What can it hold on top? What would make it stronger?

## LET'S ENGINEER!

*Tinker Town needs a new fire station. The town is holding a competition for building designs. The building must be tall, strong, and large enough to fit three fire trucks. Each of the MotMots is planning a design.*

*How can each MotMot show his or her design to enter the competition?*

**Draw**, build, make a model, or write about your own plan for a Tinker Town fire station. What shape will your design be? How tall can you make it? How will people know that it is a fire station? How can you share your ideas and design?



**PROJECT 8: DONE!**  
Get your sticker!