

## Before you start

- 1** Work in pairs. You have one minute. How many different dams or tunnels can you think of? Compare your answers with the rest of the class.

## Reading

- 2** Read the text quickly and decide which structure it describes.

- a The Hoover Dam
- b The Arlberg Tunnel
- c The Channel Tunnel
- d The Golden Gate Bridge

- 3** Read the text again and answer the questions (1–9) below.

- 1 Where is it?
- 2 What is it?
- 3 How long is it?
- 4 Who built it?
- 5 How did they build it?
- 6 What are TBMs?
- 7 How big are TBMs?
- 8 How long did it take to build?
- 9 When did it open?

- 4** First, underline the question words in Exercise 3. Then use them to complete these questions.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ many Roman roads are there in Europe?
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ designed St Paul's Cathedral in London?
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ is the name of the famous bridge in San Francisco?
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ was the Eiffel Tower built?
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ is the Corinth Canal?



The ... is between Britain and France. It's more than 20 kilometres long. It was built by British and French engineers. They started on opposite sides and met in the middle under the sea. They used specially-designed tunnel boring machines (TBMs) to dig the tunnels through the rock under the seabed. TBMs are enormous machines for digging tunnels. The machines used to dig the main tunnels were about 8.5 metres in diameter and 250 metres long. Work started in 1987 and the teams met under the seabed in 1991. It is a rail tunnel. The first passenger train went through in 1994.

## Vocabulary

- 5** Complete the texts by putting one word in each space. Use the words in the box. Check the meaning of any new words in the glossary or your dictionary.

across ■ around ■ between ■ over ■ through ■ under

**The Panama Canal** is a 64km waterway (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Before the canal was opened, ships had to travel thousands of miles (2) \_\_\_\_\_ South America. To build the canal, engineers had to dam a major river, and dig a channel (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a mountain ridge.

**Tower Bridge** is an openable bascule bridge, designed by Horace Jones in 1886. It goes (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the River Thames in London. Thousands of vehicles drive (5) \_\_\_\_\_ it every day. Tall ships cannot pass (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Tower Bridge, instead, the roadway parts and lifts to let them through.

## Writing and Speaking

- 6** Write questions about a building, tunnel, or dam. Use *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, and *how*. Make sure you know the answers!

For example

*How old is it? Where is it?*

- 7** Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions you wrote in Exercise 6.

### ► Get real

Find out about a major new engineering project. Where is it? What will it do? What problems do the engineers have to solve to build it?