



## Harbour Bridge - Why did they put the Auckland Harbour Bridge there?

### Fact

- The harbour bridge was built between St Marys Bay and Northcote Point because it was the narrowest stretch of water between the two pieces of land.
- It was also beyond the Auckland Wharf area so it would be out of the way of the huge ships that come into the wharf with goods and people.
- Because it was the narrowest stretch of water, they only needed a short bridge in comparison with the huge bridge they'd need over a wider stretch of water so the costs were kept down. The bigger the bridge the bigger the expense!
- It was the place that the government, city councils, builders and the majority of the residents agreed would be the best place to build the bridge.

### Do you know

- The Auckland Harbour Bridge was opened on 30<sup>th</sup> of May 1959 and it took over 200 workers around 4 years to build.
- It was made with 6500 tonnes of concrete and nearly 6000 tonnes of steel.
- When the bridge was first built it only had four lanes but after a few years they needed to make the bridge bigger to cope with all the traffic, so they added two lanes to each side. The new lanes were called "clip-ons" because they were made in Japan, shipped to New Zealand on huge ships and then clipped into place with huge steel pins and rods.
- The Auckland Harbour Bridge cost 16 million dollars to build over 40 years ago! The clip-ons were another 13.5 million dollars!
- They decided to build a harbour bridge because the traffic wanting to go from Auckland City to the North Shore or vice versa was growing all the time and the trip round the harbour through West Auckland used to take hours.
- Before the bridge was built vehicles and passengers also used ferries to get from one side to the other. Ferries are boats that take either cars or passengers or both.
- The span between the water and the bridge is about 15 stories high – high enough for most yachts to sail under but not high enough for many of the cruise ships, tankers and cargo ships that come into the Auckland Wharfs.
- The bridge is 1,021 meters long (nearly 10 rugby fields long)

### Experiments you can do

Imagine your school grounds or garden is a huge harbour and the only way you can get from one side to the other is to go right round the edge of it. Time how long it takes to get from one side to the other going right round the edge of the garden by walking and chanting one thousand and one, one thousand and two... until you get to the other side. One thousand and one equals one second.

How many seconds did it take?

Now imagine there's a huge bridge going over your school grounds or garden harbour and time the trip across the middle of the harbour walking and chanting one thousand and one, one thousand and two...How long does it take to go across the imaginary bridge?

### **Other Investigations**

What would happen if the bridge nearest where you live was taken away? Where would the traffic have to go to get from one side of the river, harbour or gully to the other? How would it affect you?

Is there an area near you that would benefit from having a bridge? How would it be better if there was a bridge there?

### **Jokes**

What type of spread is very busy?

Traffic Jam

From Dayna

Doctor, doctor,

I feel like a bridge

What's come over you?

Two cars and a bus

From Tegan Wells