

# The Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco

On 27<sup>th</sup> May 1937, San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge opened to the public. The dream of connecting the city of San Francisco to the other side of the Golden Gate Strait became a reality after World War I with the **engagement** of Chicago engineer Joseph Strauss. After years of legal battles **waged** by the opposition, construction finally began in early 1933. Given the chance for **steady** employment during the Great Depression, the teams of workers **faced** dangerous conditions as the roadway and towers took shape over the open ocean. Its 4,200-foot main span was the longest for a suspension bridge until 1981, while its 746-foot towers made it the tallest bridge of any type until 1993.



The cables of the bridge are particularly important: they are **strung** horizontally between two massive concrete blocks called *anchorages* on each side of the bridge, with additional vertical cables called *suspender ropes* attaching the main cable to the bridge's roadway. Vehicles push down on the roadway, but the suspender ropes transfer that load to the main cables, which transfer it to the towers, which support most of the weight. The **peculiar** colour of the bridge, International Orange, is unusual in the world of engineering and, as an added benefit, it is highly visible in the fog. It withstood the destructive earthquake of 1989, and was closed to traffic only three times due to weather conditions. Believed to be the most photographed bridge in the world, this **landmark** was named one of the seven civil engineering wonders of the United States by the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1994.

**engagement:** *impegno, coinvolgimento*

**to face:** *affrontare*

**landmark:** *punto di riferimento, luogo storico*

**peculiar:** *singolare, caratteristico*

**steady:** *stabile*

**strung (to string-strung-strung):** *tirato, sospeso*

**to wage:** *condurre, intraprendere.*

## 1 Read and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. The Golden Gate Bridge opened to public in the second half of the 1930s.
2. The designer was an architect.
3. There was a strong opposition against the construction of the building.
4. It was easy for the workers to build the bridge.
5. As a suspension bridge, the Golden Gate Bridge had the record of height until the 1990s.
6. Structurally, the most important parts are the cables.
7. The load is transferred from the towers to the cables.
8. The orange colour is very often used in engineering.
9. The bridge collapsed during the earthquake of 1989.
10. The Golden Gate Bridge was named one of the seven civil engineering wonders of the United States.

T	F
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