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ENGINEERING

The Pont du Gard in southern France is a remarkable feat of Roman engineering. The structure's overall height is 161 feet (49 meters), making it the tallest aqueduct ever built by the ancient Romans. The first (or lowest) tier is made of concrete and has a second tier on top. The third tier, which actually carries the water, has 47 arches.

ON THE WATERS OF THE CITY OF ROME

A great deal about Roman engineering is known from studying ruins and other archaeological evidence. Detailed descriptions in texts written by Roman authors describe the aqueducts of Rome.

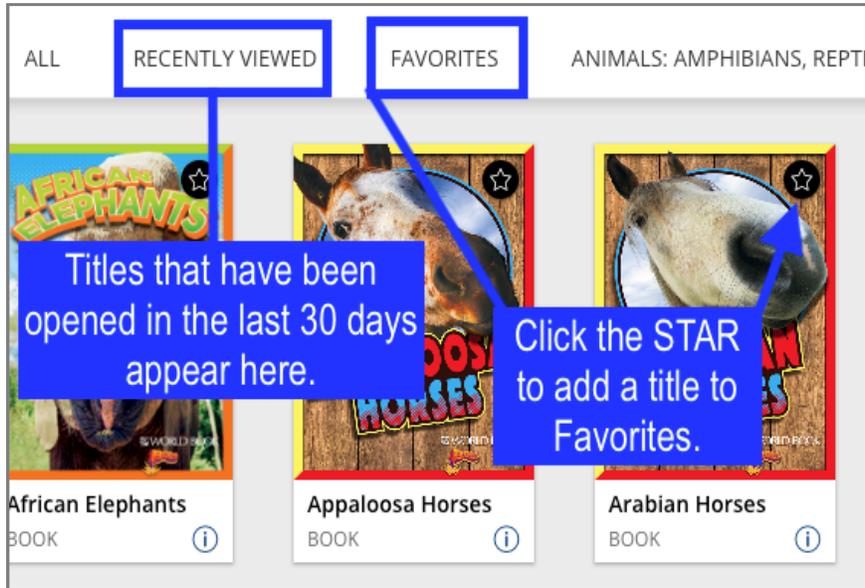
(SEIKS WAS JOD tee UNS FRAMIN AN nuhs; A.D. 35 to around 103), who was superintendent of aqueducts under the Nerva:

... those parts of the aqueducts which are carried on arches or ... the parts that cross rivers suffer most from the effects of age or of violent storms. These, therefore, must be put in order with care and dispatch. The ... not being ... or frost, are less

The invention of concrete coincided with Roman experiments with arches. From the simple arch, the Romans developed the dome and the **vault**—a row of arches joined together in the form of a tunnel to create what is known as a barrel vault. These two breakthroughs in Roman engineering allowed the construction of spectacular bridges and **aqueducts**. A clean water supply was vital for the population of Rome, and much of the city's water had to come from the surrounding countryside, some from as far as 57 miles. The aqueducts were built during the Roman Empire, and public baths that were built during the empire

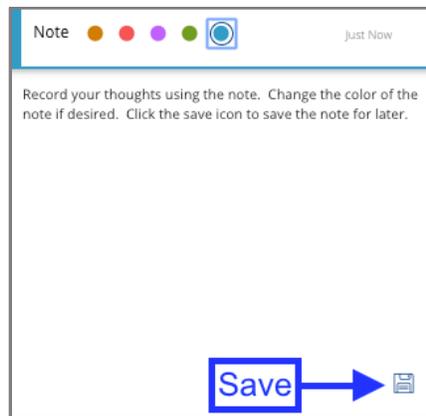
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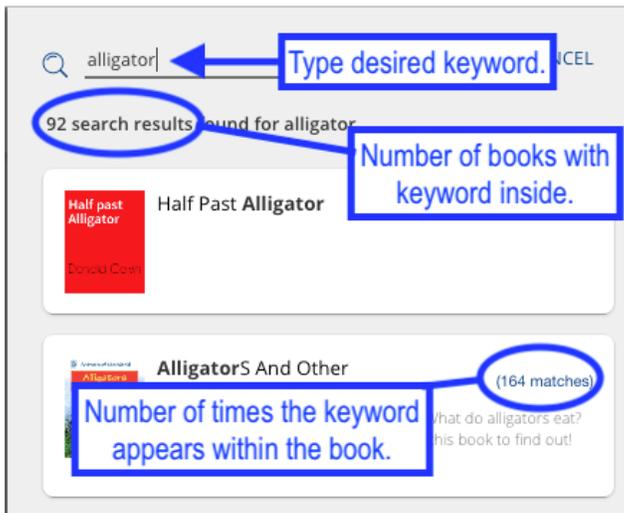
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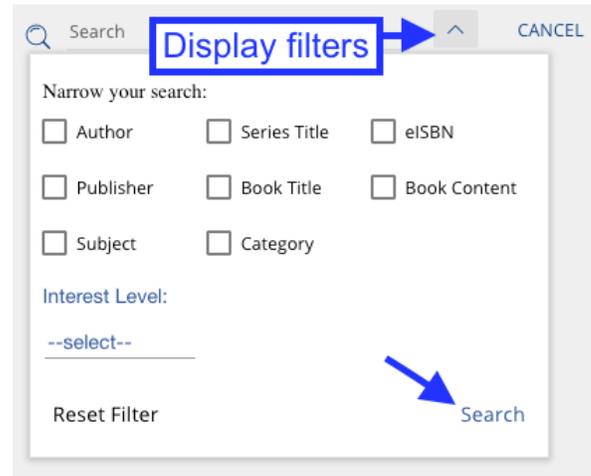
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