

Slightly convex anteriorly, the short flattened anterior arch of C1 (atlas) has an anterior tubercle in the midline, giving attachment to the **anterior longitudinal ligament**, either side of which is the attachment of the superior oblique part of longus colli. Posteriorly, a concave circular facet articulates with the dens (odontoid process) of C2 (axis). The superior and inferior borders give attachment to the anterior atlanto-occipital membrane and anterior longitudinal ligament respectively.