

# Coliseum

## Wonders of the Medieval World

Before reality television, Ancient Romans came to the Coliseum for their daily dose of entertainment. Built in 70 AD, the Coliseum was the biggest venue for sports, politics, theatre and comedy. Roman emperor Vespasian wanted an amphitheatre for his home in Rome that would blow away the competition. While the architectural wonder wasn't completed during his lifetime, the Coliseum eventually achieved Vespasian's dream. It was the largest amphitheatre ever built in the Roman Empire.



Historians estimate that over 50,000 people could fit in the Coliseum's interior seating. That's a whole lot of cheering or booing, depending on what's happening on center stage. Gladiator fights were especially popular along with exhibits of exotic animals like tigers and lions.

### Question & Answer:

1. The first name of the Coliseum was the Flavian Amphitheatre. Which name do you like better? If you could rename the Coliseum, what would you call it?

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2. Imagine that you're in charge of the entertainment at the Coliseum for one night. The year is 95 AD, and people have traveled from all over the Roman Empire to come to the Coliseum– they're expecting a pretty terrific show. What kinds of acts and spectacles will you schedule?

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## Word Search:

S G H K N P V B C N A O  
N F S S U A E O T A U N  
X U N A F D R C S I N D  
G L A D I A T O R S C G  
U A D N E Q P L A A B L  
E R T A E H T I H P M A  
A N O B T C K S V S B D  
B A D M L V E E O E S O  
C N S D E N A U X V T D  
J L H E O H E M O N S Q

Vespasian

gladiators

amphitheatre

Coliseum

Rome

Tip: ← → ↓ ↘

## Fill In The Blank:

Choose the correct answer from the word list given on the previous activity.

1. During the 70AD, \_\_\_\_\_ was a popular venue to hold events such as sports, politics, theatre and comedy.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the Roman emperor who ordered the construction of one of the greatest venues for popular entertainments in his city.
3. An \_\_\_\_\_ is a building, usually circular or oval, in which tiers of seats rise from a central open arena, as in those of ancient Rome.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ are professional fighters in Ancient Rome who participated in organized fights for the purpose of public entertainment.
5. The Coliseum is located in \_\_\_\_\_ .

### DID YOU KNOW?

The marble facade and some parts of the Coliseum were used for the construction of St. Peter's Basilica and later monuments.