Colosseum

The Colosseum is an amphitheatre in the centre of Rome, Italy. It was the largest ever built in the Roman Empire. It measures 188m long and 156m wide, and reaches a height of 48m.

The Colosseum started being built in 72 AD by Emperor Vespasian and was finished by his son Titus in 80 AD. The Colosseum could hold 50,000 spectators. The best views of the arena were saved for the Emperor.

People would come to watch gladiators fight to the death. Animal hunts, executions, and dramas could also be seen at the Colosseum. Animal hunts included wild animals from Africa and the Middle East such as elephants, hippopotamuses, lions, bears, leopards, crocodiles, rhinoceros, tigers, giraffes, and ostriches.

The Colosseum has 80 entrances at ground level, meaning the huge crowd could evacuate easily and quickly. All entrances and exits were numbered and so were the staircases.

Rooms with cages containing wild animals were built below the wooden floor. The cages could be lifted so that the wild animals could appear in the middle of the arena.

Gladiators were usually slaves or prisoners of war. The majority were men but occasionally women would also fight. Both the poor and the rich could come and watch the contests.

Although some parts of the Colosseum were ruined by earthquakes in the 21st century, it is one of Rome's most popular tourist attractions.

Name: _____   Subject: <u>KS2 Geography</u>
Date: _____   Sheet: <u>Colosseum</u>

Read the information sheet about the Colosseum on the previous page and then answer the questions.

a) When was the Colosseum built? _____

b) Who started building the Colosseum? _____

c) How many spectators could be seated in the Colosseum? _____

d) Apart from gladiator contests, what other forms of entertainment were there?

_____

e) Name five wild animals that the Emperor used for entertainment?

_____

f) Why does the Colosseum have so many entrances and exits?

_____

g) What was built underneath the arena floor?

_____

h) Were all gladiators men?   Yes ☐   No ☐

i) What caused damage to the Colosseum in the 21st century? _____

j) Unscramble these words.

g i o t r a d a l _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _   e s l a v _ _ _ _ _ _

r p e m e r o _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _   n s r p i r o e _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _