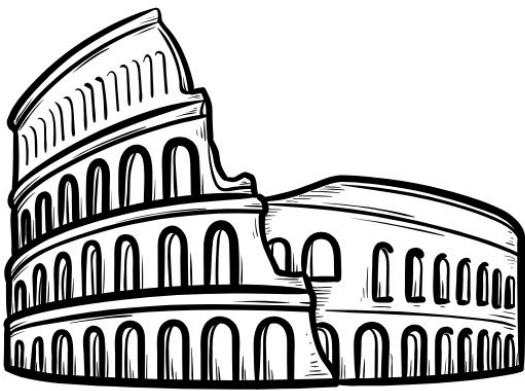


Colosseum Fact File

The Colosseum is the biggest amphitheater ever built in the Roman World. Built in the 1 century AD, it was a theater for live performances such as gladiator fights and hunts. These performances were called 'games' and were free for all to attend. Emperors and wealthy Romans would offer them to the people to show their generosity and gain popularity

Overview



Ancient Romans loved going to the games and Emperor Vespasian built a massive theater for them. He named it 'Flavian Amphitheater'.

Flavian was his surname, so he made sure everyone knew who built it! Amphitheater means 'double theater' and refers to the the oval shape of the venue. A standard theater would have a form of a C, an amphitheater would be two Cs facing one another like this () - amphi in Greek means 'both'.

Beside the theater there used to be a colossal statue of emperor Nero. People often used the statue as a meeting point. 'See you at the Colossus!' They would say. The name stuck and even after the statue was gone, the place was referred to as the Colosseum. This is how the Colosseum got his well known nickname!

Name

Flavian Anfiteater or simply 'The Colosseum'

Date

72 -80 AD

Emperor Titus inaugurated the Colosseum in 80AD

Size

Hight: 150 ft

Length: 550 ft

Width: 480 ft

Use

The Colosseum was a thearer used for performances such as gladiator fights, hunts and more

Did you know?

The Colosseum is most famous for gladiator fights but different types of shows happened here such as hunts and, some authors say, even naval battles. For those, the Colosseum would be flooded and ships brought in, so that they could stage the reenactment of an important battle and celebrate again the victories of Rome over their enemies