

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210506-colosseum.html>

Italy's government has given the green light for the refurbishment of Rome's famous ancient Colosseum. The Colosseum is one of the world's most iconic sites and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. It is an oval amphitheatre in the centre of the city of Rome and is the largest ancient amphitheatre ever built. It was completed over two millennia ago in AD 80. The plans will see the monument fitted with a new floor that will allow visitors the chance to stand where Roman gladiators once fought for their lives. Gladiators were used to entertain audiences during the Roman Empire by fighting to the death with swords against other gladiators, wild animals, and condemned criminals.

Italy's Culture Minister Dario Franceschini announced the high-tech project and said it would open to the public by 2023. It is projected to cost around 18.5 million euro, or \$22.2 million. The Colosseum currently has no floor. Archaeologists removed the original floor in the 19th Century to expose the structure's network of underground tunnels. Mr Franceschini said the new floor would be "extraordinary" and would allow visitors to see "the majesty of the Colosseum" from its centre. He added: "It's another step forward toward rebuilding the arena. It is an ambitious project that will aid the conservation of the archaeological structures while getting back to the original image of the Colosseum."

Sources: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-unveils-new-hi-tech-floor-design-colosseum-area-2021-05-02/>
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/02/rome-colosseum-to-gain-hi-tech-arena-floor>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56966365>

WARM-UPS

1. ROME'S COLOSSEUM: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Rome's Colosseum. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

government / green light / famous / ancient / iconic / amphitheatre / gladiator / high-tech / project / the public / network / tunnel / extraordinary / conservation

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. CONSERVATION: Students A **strongly** believe it is essential to conserve ancient sites; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. THE NEW SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD: What do you know about the New Seven Wonders of the World? What do you want to know? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	What I Want to Know
The Colosseum		
Great Wall of China		
Chichén Itzá El Castillo		
Petra		
Machu Picchu		
Christ the Redeemer		
Taj Mahal		

5. ROME: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "Rome". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. SITES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best sites at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- The Colosseum
- Great Wall of China
- The Statue of Liberty
- Mount Fuji
- Machu Picchu
- Sydney Opera House
- Easter Island Moai
- The Pyramids

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. green light | a. Permission to go ahead with a project. |
| 2. refurbishment | b. A man trained to fight with weapons against other men or wild animals in an arena. |
| 3. ancient | c. The renovation and redecoration of something, especially a building. |
| 4. iconic | d. A period of a thousand years. |
| 5. millennia | e. Belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence. |
| 6. gladiator | f. Relating to or of the nature of a person or thing regarded as a representative symbol of something. |
| 7. condemned | g. Sentenced someone to a particular punishment, especially death. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. projected | h. Impressive stateliness, dignity, or beauty. |
| 9. expose | i. Very unusual or remarkable. |
| 10. structure | j. Estimated or forecast something on the basis of present trends. |
| 11. extraordinary | k. Having or showing a strong desire and determination to succeed. |
| 12. majesty | l. Make something visible, typically by uncovering it. |
| 13. ambitious | m. Preservation and repair of archaeological, historical, and cultural sites and artifacts. |
| 14. conservation | n. A building or other object constructed from several parts. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210506-colosseum.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Italy's government lit a red light for the Colosseum's new floor. **T / F**
- b. The Colosseum is one of the ancient wonders of the world. **T / F**
- c. The Colosseum was built in 80BC. **T / F**
- d. In the Roman Empire, men used to fight wild animals with swords. **T / F**
- e. Italy's culture minister said the new floor would be ready by 2023. **T / F**
- f. Archaeologists removed the original Colosseum floor in the 19th Century. **T / F**
- g. Italy's culture minister said the new floor would be extraordinary. **T / F**
- h. Italy's culture minister said the new floor was an ambitious project. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. green light | a. declared |
| 2. built | b. preservation |
| 3. fitted | c. convicted |
| 4. entertain | d. forecast |
| 5. condemned | e. constructed |
| 6. announced | f. go-ahead |
| 7. projected | g. web |
| 8. network | h. remarkable |
| 9. extraordinary | i. amuse |
| 10. conservation | j. equipped |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. given the green | a. of underground tunnels |
| 2. one of the world's most | b. for their lives |
| 3. It is an oval | c. image of the Colosseum |
| 4. Roman gladiators once fought | d. iconic sites |
| 5. fighting to the | e. forward |
| 6. it would open to | f. death with swords |
| 7. The Colosseum currently | g. light for the refurbishment |
| 8. expose the structure's network | h. has no floor |
| 9. It's another step | i. amphitheatre |
| 10. getting back to the original | j. the public by 2023 |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210506-colosseum.html>

1. What did Italy's government give for the Colosseum's floor to be built?
2. What is the Colosseum one of seven of?
3. When was the Colosseum finished?
4. Who fought for their lives in the Colosseum?
5. What did people fight against besides other people?
6. When will the Colosseum's new floor open to the public?
7. When was the original floor removed?
8. How much is the new floor projected to cost?
9. What did Italy's culture minister say the new floor would be?
10. What did Italy's culture minister say Colosseum would get back to?

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210506-colosseum.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'floor' and 'ancient'.

floor	ancient

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions against other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• light• iconic• oval• ever• stand• death	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• open• cost• expose• allow• majesty• aid
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ROME'S COLOSSEUM DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'Colosseum'?
3. What do you know about the Colosseum?
4. What do you think when you see the Colosseum?
5. Where would you put the Colosseum on a 'must-visit' list?
6. Why are we so fascinated by ancient sites?
7. What modern wonders are the best?
8. Is the refurbishment a good idea?
9. What are the best sites in your country?
10. How could people get other people to fight to the death?

Rome's Colosseum to get new hi-tech floor – 6th May, 2021
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ROME'S COLOSSEUM DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'Rome'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How will the new floor improve the experience at the Colosseum?
15. Why do you think the new floor might be 'extraordinary'?
16. Would you like to be an archaeologist?
17. Why is it important to preserve ancient buildings?
18. What could the Colosseum be used for today?
19. What modern day architecture will be great sites in the future?
20. What questions would you like to ask a Roman gladiator?