

## Rome's Colosseum to get new hi-tech floor

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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: [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) / [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com)

### Writing

Preserving archaeological sites is essential. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

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

### True / False

- 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

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

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

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How will the new floor improve the experience at the Colosseum?
- c) Why do you think the new floor might be 'extraordinary'?
- d) Would you like to be an archaeologist?
- e) Why is it important to preserve ancient buildings?
- f) What could the Colosseum be used for today?
- g) What modern day architecture will be great sites in the future?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a Roman gladiator?

## Phrase Match

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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          |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the Colosseum?
- What do you think when you see the Colosseum?
- Where would you put the Colosseum on a 'must-visit' list?
- Why are we so fascinated by ancient sites?
- What modern wonders are the best?
- Is the refurbishment a good idea?
- What are the best sites in your country?
- How could people get other people to fight to the death?

## Spelling

- given the green light for the eemtnbfriursh
- Rome's famous actnine Colosseum
- completed over two nllimeain ago
- where Roman glairtosad once fought
- used to entertain adeeuncis
- mnddeneoc criminals
- Franceschini nonuencda the high-tech project
- oesepx the structure's network
- allow visitors to see the seatjym
- It is an aiiusbotm project
- archaeological ttrsescuru
- getting back to the ariiglon image

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. e	3. e	4. i	5. c
6. a	7. d	8. g	9. h	10. b

## Role Play

### Role A – The Colosseum

You think the Colosseum is the world's bet site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mount Fuji, the Great Wall of China or the Pyramids.

### Role B – Mount Fuji

You think Mount Fuji is the world's bet site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the Colosseum, the Great Wall of China or the Pyramids.

### Role C – Great Wall of China

You think the Great Wall of China is the world's bet site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mount Fuji, the Colosseum or the Pyramids.

### Role D – The Pyramids

You think the Pyramids is the world's bet site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mount Fuji, the Great Wall of China or the Colosseum.

## Speaking – Sites

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

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

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.