

6 Rome: ancient and modern

Summary

Italy's capital city has more to offer than its impressive monuments and ancient history. It also has culinary delights and art museums. Throughout history, Rome has been considered 'a modern city' and continues to be so today.

Background

As the centre of the Roman Empire, a cultural centre during the Renaissance, and the capital of a unified Italy, the city of Rome has had a significant influence on Western culture.

Before you watch

1 Answer the question.

- Ask the class: *Can you name some famous places in Rome?*
- Elicit students' answers and write them on the board.
- If you have access to the Internet and an interactive whiteboard, put some pictures of famous places in Rome up and ask students to say what they think of them.

Suggested answers

the Roman Forum, the Colosseum, the Vatican City

While you watch

2 Watch and find out.

- Tell students they are going to watch a video about Rome as both an ancient and a modern city.
- Ask students to watch the video to find out which modern building has a similar design to the ancient Colosseum in Rome.
- Play the video.

Answer

a football stadium

3 Watch and put the correct number into the sentences.

- Write the following numbers and sentences on the board:
10,000 2,000 50,000 1,000,000 2,000,000
 - 1 More than _____ people visit Rome every year.
 - 2 More than _____ years ago Rome was a modern city.
 - 3 About _____ people lived in ancient Rome.
 - 4 There were sometimes _____ people at the baths at the same time.
 - 5 There were about _____ people in the Colosseum for every fight.
- Put students into pairs and ask them to complete the sentences with the correct numbers.
- Play the video again.
- Students watch and check their answers.

Answers

1 2,000,000 2 2,000 3 1,000,000 4 10,000
5 50,000

After you watch

4 Work with a partner. Answer the questions.

- Put students into pairs to answer the following questions:
 - a Which places in Rome would you most like to visit and why?
 - b Which do you think are most interesting: ancient buildings and monuments or modern facilities such as stadiums?
- Ask some students to report back to the class on their partner's ideas.

At home

5 Write a description of the most interesting places in your town or city.

- Tell students to write a description of the most interesting places in their town or city.
- Brainstorm information that students could include in their descriptions, when setting this for homework, e.g. important monuments, museums, stadiums and shops.
- Collect and check students' work in the next lesson.

6 Make a guide to your capital city for tourists.

- Tell students to make a guide to their capital city for tourists. Ask them to think about the interesting places in their capital and find photographs to illustrate their guides.
- Students can then present their guide to a small group in the next lesson.



Rome: Ancient and Modern

This is Rome, the capital city of Italy. More than 2 million people visit the city every year. There's lots to do in Rome!

You can eat a lot of different food in the restaurants and see great art in the museums.

And you can see a lot of ancient monuments – for example, the Colosseum. That's because more than 2,000 years ago, Rome was a modern city. About 1 million people lived here. There were theatres and markets and schools.

In ancient Rome, there were also baths. Baths were places with pools and gyms, like modern health clubs. There were sometimes 10,000 people here at the same time! Today, the baths look like this.

In ancient Rome, the Colosseum was an amphitheatre – a place for games. Two thousand years ago, there were some very *unusual* games in this amphitheatre. The games were *fights* – to live or die. They were very dangerous, but also very popular. There were about 50,000 people in the Colosseum for every fight – but everyone had a good view!

Today, the Colosseum is an important tourist attraction. Romans don't watch sports or games here anymore. They go to modern stadiums. The design of modern stadiums is similar to the design of the Colosseum. Thousands of people can watch a game here, too. And everyone has a good view.

And that's Rome – an ancient and a modern city.