**The Colosseum**

 Officially opened in 80 AD and standing as an ionic symbol of Ancient Rome the Colosseum was an amazing amphitheater known for entertaining people by hosting gladiatorial contests. In these contests men fought other men or animals. It is thought that more than 500,000 people and a million animals have died while fighting for their lives in the gladiatorial contests.

Even though the Colosseum had gruesome fights it is still one of the best buildings ever due to its architecture and technology. For example the Colosseum could accommodate over 50,000 spectators and had 80 arched entrances and multiple staircases. The amphitheater was also very large and formed an oval which was 527 meters in circumference with diameters of 189 and 156 meters. The height of the four-storied wall was 48 meters. It only took 9 years to build with 600.00 slaves.

Under the arena was the hypogeum, a vast network of tunnels and passages as well as chambers for the gladiators, animals and slaves. It contained elevators operated by ropes and pulleys which led directly to the arena of the Colosseum.

**The History of the Colosseum:**

The massive stone amphitheater known as the Colosseum was commissioned around AD 70-72 by Emperor Vespasian of the Flavian dynasty; he gave it to the people of Rome as a gift. In AD 80 Vespasian’s son, Titus officially opened it and named it Flavian Amphitheater. The Flavian Amphitheater had 100 days of games with gladiatorial combats and wild animal fights. After 4 centuries of use the Colosseum had been destroyed due to earthquakes and lightning. Today it is still a popular tourist attraction in Rome.