

Lesson Plan: Building the Colosseum - A Roman Adventure!

Materials Needed

- A large paper plate or a piece of cardboard for the base
- An empty paper towel or toilet paper tube
- Scissors (adult supervision recommended)
- Glue or tape
- Play-Doh or modeling clay (brown, grey, or tan colors work well)
- Markers, crayons, or paint
- Small toy figures (people, animals)
- Optional: Pictures or a short, kid-friendly video of the Colosseum

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Tell a friend what the Colosseum was used for.
- Point out three special parts of the Colosseum: arches, levels, and the arena.
- Build your own mini-model of the Colosseum.

Lesson Activities

1. Introduction: A Super Stadium! (5 minutes)

- **Hook:** Ask your learner, "If you could build the most amazing stadium in the whole world, what would it look like? What kind of shows would you have there?" Listen to their ideas and build excitement.
- **Introduce the Topic:** "That's an amazing idea! Almost 2,000 years ago, some incredible builders called the Romans built the most famous stadium ever. It was called the **Colosseum!** Today, we're going to travel back in time to learn all about it and even build our own."
- **Share Objectives:** "Our adventure today has three missions! First, we'll find out what happened inside the Colosseum. Second, we'll learn the secrets to how it was built. And third, you will become a Roman builder and create your own Colosseum!"

2. Body: Discover, Plan, and Build! (25-30 minutes)

Part A: What Was the Colosseum? (I Do - 5 minutes)

- **Story Time:** "Let's pretend we're kids living in ancient Rome! The emperor built a giant, round building for everyone to watch exciting shows. It was like a super-stadium for free entertainment! People would come to see parades, watch trained fighters called gladiators, and see amazing wild animals from all over the world." (Show pictures or a short video clip here if you have them.)
- **Key Features Explained:**
 - "The Romans were super smart builders. To make the walls strong, they used a special shape over and over again called an **arch**. It looks like a rainbow or a smile! Can you make an arch with your hands?"

- "The Colosseum was huge, like a giant layer cake! It had different floors, or **levels**, so thousands of people could sit and watch the show at the same time."
- "The sandy floor in the very middle where the action happened was called the **arena**. That's where all the exciting shows took place!"

Part B: Let's Be Roman Architects! (We Do - 5 minutes)

- **Think & Plan Together:** "Before we build, all great architects make a plan. Let's plan our Colosseum together. On a piece of paper, let's sketch it out. How can we show the arches on the outside? How many levels will our Colosseum have? And where will the arena be?"
- **Check for Understanding:** As you sketch together, ask questions like, "Point to where the arches will go," and "Where will the little toy people sit to watch the show?" This is a quick check to see if they understand the key parts.

Part C: Build Your Own Colosseum! (You Do - 15-20 minutes)

- **Activity Instructions:**
 1. **Make the Walls:** "First, take the paper towel tube. An adult can help you cut it into several small rings. Each ring looks like an arch!"
 2. **Build the Structure:** "Now, stand your 'arches' up and glue or tape them in a big circle on your cardboard base. This forms the outside wall of your Colosseum."
 3. **Create the Inside:** "Use Play-Doh or clay to build the seats inside the circle. You can make rows going up, just like the real levels. Leave the middle empty for the arena!"
 4. **Add the Details:** "Use your markers or crayons to draw stones on the outside walls. You can even use brown Play-Doh to make the sandy floor of the arena."
 5. **It's Showtime!:** "Place your little toy figures in the seats and in the arena. What kind of show is happening in your Colosseum today?"
- **Success Criteria:** Let's make sure our Colosseum model has these three things to be a success:
 - A round or oval shape.
 - Arches on the outside walls.
 - An open space in the middle for the arena.

3. Conclusion: A Tour of Your Colosseum (5 minutes)

- **Show and Tell (Assessment):** "You are now an official Roman builder! Please give me a tour of your amazing Colosseum. Tell me about its special parts. Where are the arches? Where is the arena? Who is watching the show today?"
- **Recap Key Points:** "You did an incredible job! Let's remember what we learned. What was the Colosseum? (A giant stadium for shows!) What special shape did the Romans use to make it strong? (Arches!) What was the sandy floor in the middle called? (The arena!)"
- **Real-World Connection:** "Today, we still have giant stadiums for football games, baseball games, and concerts. They were all inspired by the amazing idea the Romans had with the Colosseum—a special place to bring lots of people together for an exciting show!"

Differentiation & Adaptability

- **For Extra Support:** If the building part is too challenging, focus on drawing. The learner can draw a large picture of the Colosseum and you can help them label the arches, levels, and arena. You can also pre-cut the paper tube rings to make assembly easier.
- **For an Extra Challenge:** Ask the learner to build a secret tunnel under the arena using a folded

piece of paper (this was called the hypogeum, where animals were kept!). They could also create a ticket for their Colosseum show or write a short story about a day there.