

Rome

Rome is in the region of Latium, and is the capital city of the country, with a population of around 2.8 million people. It was founded by the Romans in 753BC. Rome is an extremely popular tourist destination, with 7-10 million people visiting each year to see the city's famous sights.



The Colosseum

The Colosseum is the most famous tourist attraction in Rome. It was built during the Roman period, and completed in 80AD. It was used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles such as executions, animal hunts and plays. There were over 80 entrances, and it is estimated that the average audience size was 65,000. Around 4 million tourists visit the landmark every year.

Saint Peter's Basilica is one of the largest churches in the world at 136 metres tall. Construction was begun in 1506, and one of its many designers was Michelangelo, the famous Italian sculptor, painter and architect. The building was finally completed in 1626. It is located within the walled state of the Vatican City, where the head of the Catholic church, the Pope, resides.

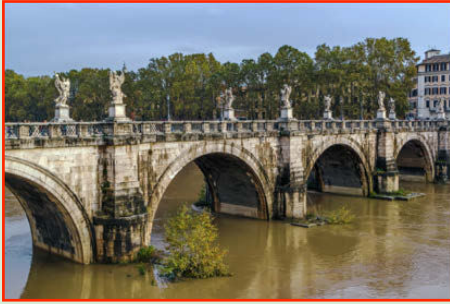


Saint Peter's Basilica



The Trevi Fountain

The Trevi Fountain is the largest fountain in the city, and one of the most famous in the world. It is made out of stone, and its construction took 30 years, being completed in 1762. It is considered good luck to throw coins into the water; this should be done using the right hand and throwing over the left shoulder. An estimated 3000 euros are thrown in the fountain every day!



Ponte Sant'Angelo (the Bridge of Angels)

The bridge, which crosses the river Tiber, was completed in 134AD after being commissioned by the Roman Emperor Hadrian. The ten angels that span the bridge on both sides were only added more than 1,500 years later in 1669, when Pope Clement IX ordered them to be made. Nowadays, the 135 metre long bridge is only for pedestrian use, and leads to Castel Sant'Angelo, which is a museum.

The Sistine Chapel, which was built between 1473 and 1481, is in the Vatican City. Today, it is the place where a new Pope is decided upon. Between 1508 and 1512, the famous artist and sculptor Michelangelo painted the ceiling. Because it was more than 20 metres from the ground, he had to first build his own scaffold so that he could reach it! He created a platform from wood on brackets which he built out from holes in the wall, high up near the top of the windows. He used bright colours so that they could be easily seen from below. It took him four years, and the area he painted was 40 metres long by 13 metres wide. Over 6 million people visit the chapel every year.



Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel



The Pantheon

The Pantheon was a Roman temple. The original Pantheon was built between 27BC and 14AD, but it burnt down. The current building was constructed between 118 and 128AD. It is one of the most well-preserved and complete examples of an Ancient Roman building. The building is circular, with a 'portico' (porch or entrance) consisting of 16 large columns in total. Nowadays it is a Catholic church and a very popular place for weddings.



Now that you have found out about some of the major landmarks of Rome, as a group you are going to use this information to create a short presentation about the city to show to the rest of your class!

Think carefully about what information you will share, and how you will share it (don't just read out the fact sheet!). Try to make your presentation interesting and informative. Make sure everyone in the group has a role. You can use the Picture Cards in your presentation too, as well as the Map of Italy.

