

THE COLOSSEUM







I. The Construction of the Colosseum.

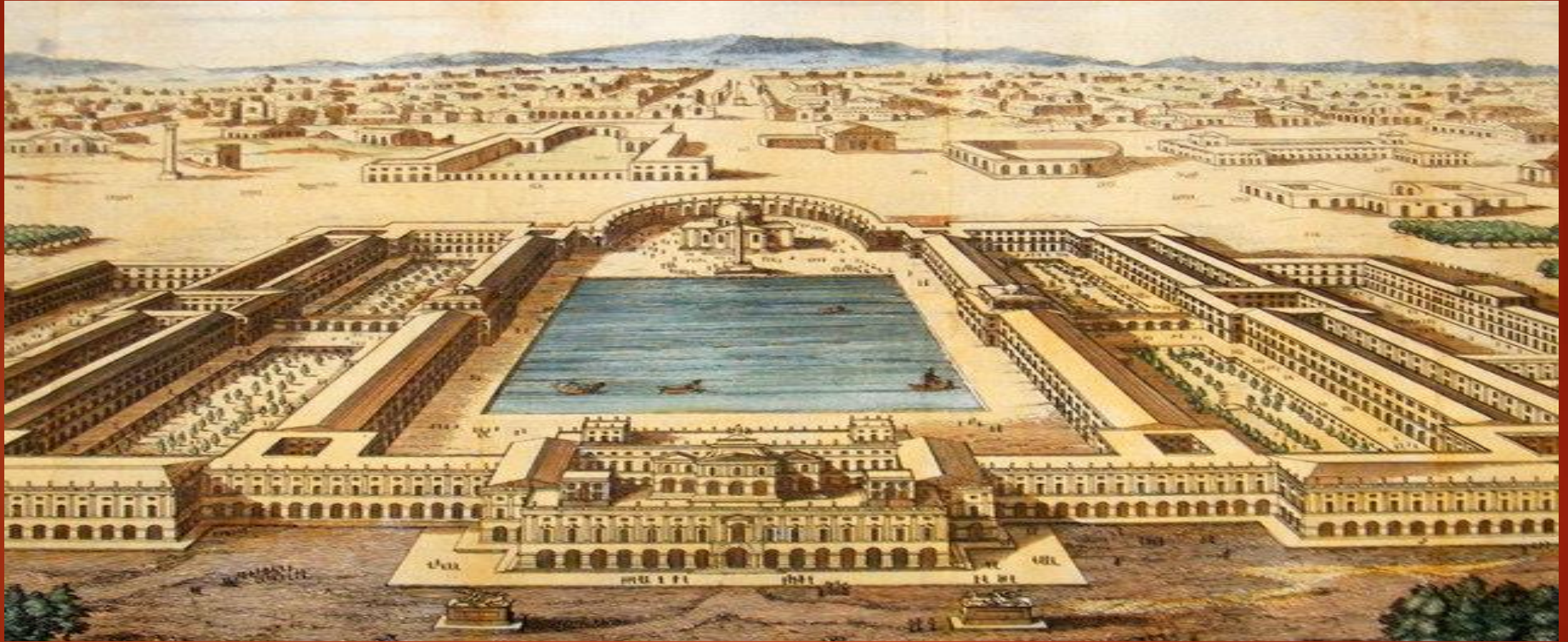


A. The Colosseum was built in Rome in the 1st century by Vespasian the Emperor of the Roman Empire.

- i. It took roughly 10 years to build (very quickly for something of this magnitude)
- ii. Vespasian died in 79 AD, his son Titus finished the project.



B. It was built in the place of Nero's "Golden Palace"

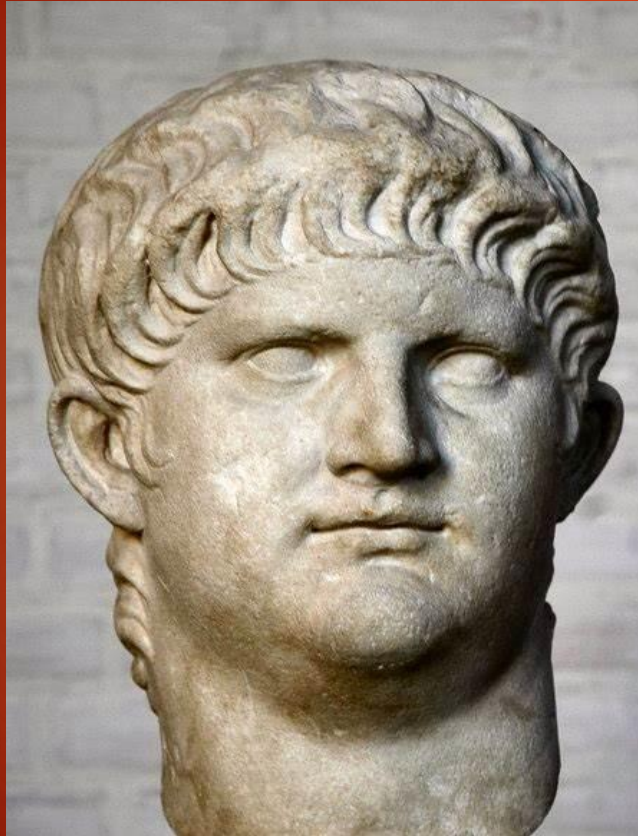


i. Nero died in 68 AD by committing suicide.

ii. He was accused of setting fire to Rome in 64 AD, which led to a series of revolts,

ending with Nero taking his own life.

iii. Nero was a terrible Emperor who persecuted Christians.



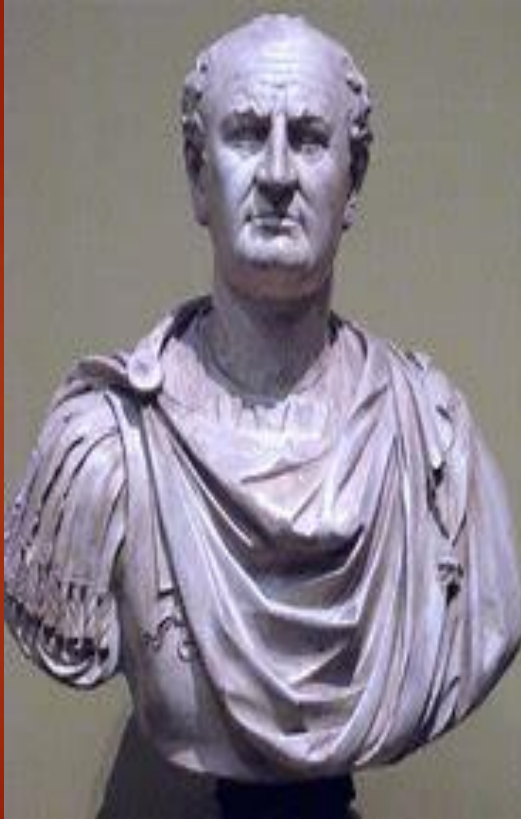
C. The Colosseum was inaugurated in 80 AD with a ceremony that lasted 100 days.



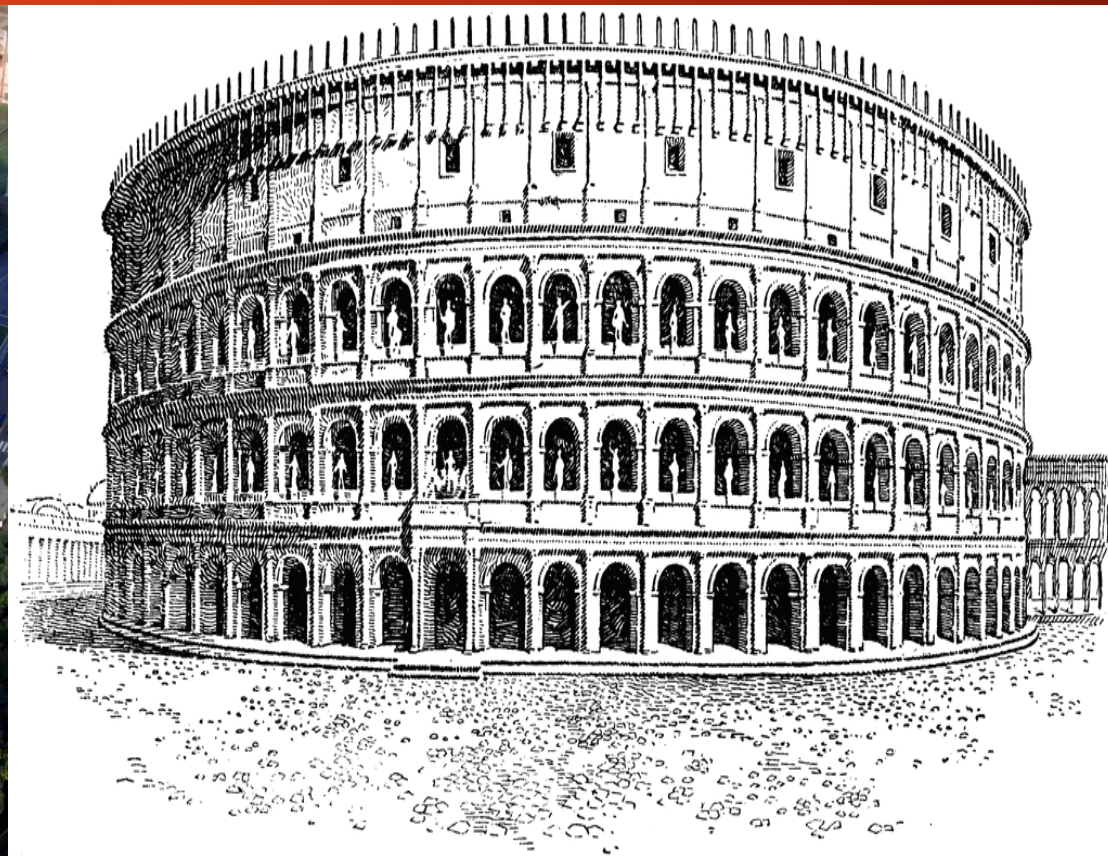
ii. Its completion came right after the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius and the destruction of
Pompeii. (79 AD)



iii. Titus, emperor at the time, gained the peoples respect by having this free entertainment following the tragedy.



II. The Purpose of the Colosseum.



A. Gladiator Duels

i. It is believed that the first gladiators were slaves forced to fight at the funeral of Junius

Brutus Pera.

ii. The Romans liked watching this, so wealthy royals began putting on gladiator shows and

