

INVESTIGATING SPORTS IN THE ARENA

COMPARING ROMAN SPORTS WITH THE 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

Introduction activity

As a class watch the 'Learn about the sort of shows held in the amphitheatre and learn about the arena itself' video.

Explain to the class that many sports and live events would take place in the arena and the audience would sit in raised seats that gave them a great view of the events.

List the events mentioned in the video:

- Wild animal shows
- Boxing
- Athletics
- Acrobats
- Gladiator matches

Main part of the lesson

Watch the 'Walk up the tunnel entrance towards the arena' video explaining that the tunnel is where all the people taking part in the events would walk through to get to the arena itself.

Ask the class to think how they would feel if they were in the room waiting to go into the arena for an event. Perhaps ask the class to think of some words to describe their feelings, or use the 'hot spot' technique to ask a pupil to ask someone what it was like to be the one waiting to enter the arena.

Remind the class that the events in the arena could nowadays be considered a bit like the Olympics. There would be similar events, large crowds watching and a special building housing the events, just like we had for the Olympics in London in 2012.

Ask the class to go to the Olympic 2012 site located at <http://www.london2012.com/sport>.

Explain that in this lesson you want them to compare and contrast the events at the modern day Olympics with those that were taking place in the amphitheatre.

Ask them to make a list using the 'Amphitheatre and Olympic events resource' and type or write into each set the events that did take place.

More information on events in the amphitheatre can be found [here](#).

Plenary

Use the time lapse footage of the Olympic park being built on the Newham website located [here](#).

Discuss with the class how they think the Roman amphitheatre in London was built.

Was it built quickly using machines such as in the Olympic Park?

How do they think it was constructed?