



# Rome's Legacy

## Roman Science and Engineering

Unlike the Greeks, most Romans did not study the world just to learn about it. The Romans mainly wanted knowledge to help improve their lives. The Romans were practical. Their doctors studied the works of the Greeks, including **Galen**, to find ways of improving human health.

# Skilled Engineers and Builders

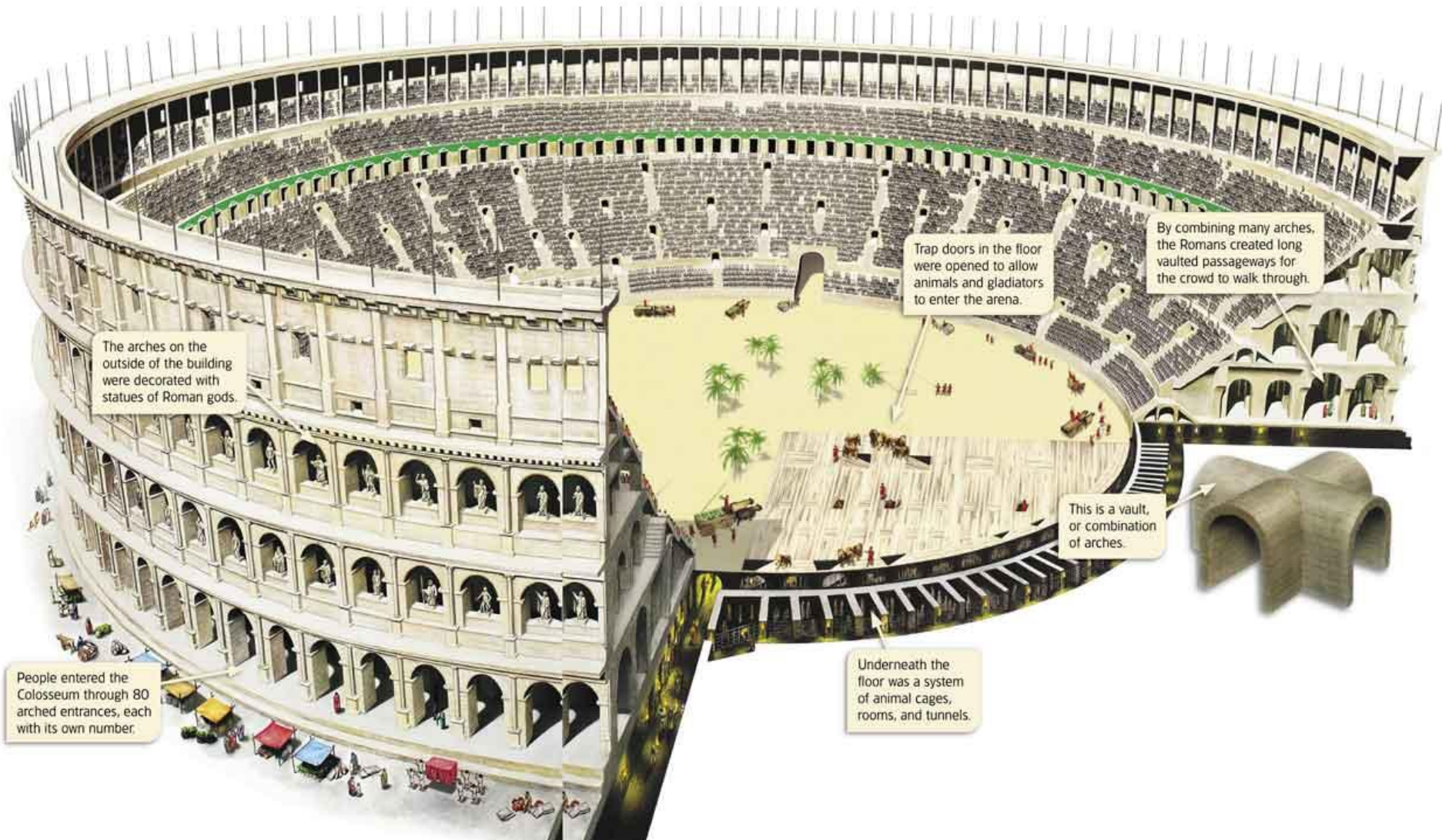
- The Romans were skilled engineers and builders.
- They developed new materials, such as cement, so their structures would last. Examples of the Roman **aqueduct** still stand.
- The Romans used the **vault** to create large, open spaces within buildings. Roman buildings were bigger than any previously created.



# Architecture and Art

- The Romans prized beauty as well as practical things.
- Roman architecture was greatly influenced by earlier Greek designs. The Romans used columns in public buildings to make them look grand, as the Greeks had done. However, Roman engineering allowed them to create much larger buildings, such as the Colosseum. This huge building was used to hold gladiator fights.

# The Colosseum



The Colosseum was a huge arena in ancient Rome. The giant building was more than 150 feet tall and could seat about 50,000 people, who came to watch events like gladiator fights. The building's design was based on many arches and vaults, hallmarks of Roman engineering.



# Architecture and Art

Beautiful mosaics covered many Roman floors. Frescoes, or paintings done on plaster, often decorated their walls. Many Roman sculptors copied the great Greek sculptures.

# A Roman Fresco



A fresco is a type of painting in which paint is applied to wet plaster and then left to dry. Roman artists painted many beautiful frescoes like this one.

# Literature and Language

**Ovid** wrote lovely poems and **Virgil** wrote a great epic, the *Aeneid*, about the founding of Rome. Romans excelled in **satire**, which has been a model for many modern works of literature.



Victoire d'Enée. Liebig 1927. Photo ©Maicar Förlag-GML

# Language

- The Roman poets wrote in Latin, the language of ancient Rome.
- Latin greatly influenced the development of the **Romance languages**. Many Latin words are still used today in English. Some examples are *circus* and *veto*. Many scientific naming systems and mottoes are taken from the Latin language.

# Law



**Civil law** was inspired by Roman law, which was enforced throughout the Roman Empire and continued to exist even after the empire fell apart. Most European nations today are ruled by systems of civil law.

# Chapter 12 Summary



In 27 BC Rome became an empire. Emperors ruled with complete power, and Roman armies conquered new territories. As the empire reached its height, Roman art, architecture, and law flourished.

Chapter Visual Summary: This visual summary shows a picture of a man riding in a chariot at the back of a line of people. In front of him there are Roman soldiers and in front of the Roman soldiers there are people who are carrying goods. The group at the very front are older men dressed in white. In the background you can see a building with columns.