Looking down from the airplane, this huge oval shaped amphitheater is quite a sight to see! Just like spokes on a bicycle wheel, all the roads seem to lead directly to this exciting landmark. Built in eight years, this gigantic open-air arena was begun in the year 80 A.D. It was the site of some pretty exciting -- and horrible -- events. Warriors called "gladiators" would fight to the death here while crowds of people watched. Then, before the triumphant gladiator would strike his final blow, he'd look up to the audience. If they were waving hankies or giving him the "thumbs up," it meant for him to spare the loser's life. If, however, the audience was giving the "thumbs down" sign, they were telling the gladiator to kill off his opponent. During the Middle Ages, people looked at the place as a "stone quarry." They removed many stones to build other buildings.

Can you name the city and country that I am visiting? Can you name this famous place?

© 2004 by Education World®. Education World grants users permission to reproduce this work sheet for educational purposes only.