Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7 Wonders of Architecture and Engineering of the Roman Empire

*Circus Maximus*

1. What was the purpose of the Circus Maximus? Entertainment
2. Why did Emperor Trajan build the Circus Maximus? To entertain Rome’s population which would make him popular with the people
3. How was Trajan’s Circus Maximus different from all the others? Trajan’s was made out of concrete which kept it standing (fire proof). It also had shops.
4. Describe the Circus Maximus. Largest arena ever constructed, 1/3 mile long, chariot racing, wild beast and gladiator fights, tiered seating for spectators,

*Trajan’s Forum*

1. What was a forum? Central place where people come to meet, had a temple, judgement hall, library, market place
2. What made Trajan’s forum design considered a “futuristic design”? Mass of marble, bronze, contained shopping malls known as Trajan’s markets, had different levels or floors of shops, the face of the shops opened up to face the streets where people would be walking

*Aqueducts*

1. What did aqueducts do? Brought fresh water into the homes and city
2. Why was it necessary to determine the degree of slope before building the aqueducts? It determined the angle of the aqueducts
3. Why was the arch such a big deal to the design of the aqueducts? The arch takes the weight of the structure so that the aqueducts could cross valleys
4. Why did the Romans use aqueducts instead of pipes? Pressure issues which would cause breaks, pipes collect sediment that created pressure points, use of lead could be poisonous
5. Where would the water go once it entered Rome? Homes that could afford water, public baths, Public supply

*Public Baths*

1. Why were Caracalla’s public baths so impressive? It was much more grand in size and had shops, food stands, etc
2. What was used to heat the public baths? Slaves underneath the baths had to continually feed the fire within the boiler rooms
3. What could people do at Caracalla’s public baths? Swim, rest in sauna rooms, cool in plunge pool, gym, exercise room, gardens, library, massages, hair salon, food and drink

*Roman Roads*

1. What is the name of the most famous of the Roman roads? Appian Way
2. What was the secret of the construction of the Roman roads? They figured out a way to survey the roads to make sure roads were flat and straight
3. Why are all Roman roads straight? Couldn’t survey around corners
4. Before Roman roads were constructed, what caused roadways to form? Foot traffic from soldiers mainly
5. Why were roads so important to the Roman Empire? The roads helped the Roman Army get to other areas of the empire easier and made transportation of people and goods much easier.
6. Why were Roman roads so durable? The foundation was strong and several layers piled on top. Water drained off the side so it didn’t damage the roads.

*Grand Pantheon*

1. What was the significance of the Pantheon? Temple built in honor of all the Roman gods
2. What were some of the architectural design features that made the Pantheon such a masterpiece? Oculus that opened to the heavens, largest dome ever made at the time, columns, tiered dome, 8 piers to hold up the weight of the dome, made of Egyptian granite brought in from thousands of miles away
3. Why did Emperor Hadrian decide to break the “laws of proportion”? It would have cost too much to continue using marble and would have also taken too long to build.

*Coliseum*

1. Why was the Coliseum built? “Arena of entertainment and a cathedral of death”. The emperor wanted to regain his popularity
2. How did the seating arrangement in the Coliseum represent Roman society? The seats in the “nose bleed sections” went to those who were of the lowest status in society (peasants, slaves, women) and the best seats went to the wealthiest of society.
3. Why were the tunnels under the Coliseum so important to the function of the building? The tunnels helped to quickly move the wild animals in and out of the arena and also moved the dead bodies out quickly.
4. What architectural design features were used in building the Coliseum? Arches, tiered seating,
5. Why do you think the Romans wanted to see such horrific acts displayed in the arena of the Coliseum? Possible answer: The Romans became hardened to violence based on the time period they lived in so it did not upset them to see it (they became desensitized to violence because it was just a part of their everyday society). Rome was a proud empire and glorified violence to the point where they accepted it as a form of entertainment.