CAUSE & EFFECT

From organiser to writing | Student worksheet

TOPIC / BIG QUESTION

Why did the Romans build the Colosseum?

CAUSES

Read the three reasons. Use these ideas when constructing your sentences.

CAUSE 1

To entertain
Roman citizens.

CAUSE 2

To demonstrate
the emperor's power.

CAUSE 3

To increase
the emperor's popularity.

MAIN EFFECT

The Colosseum was built as a major public entertainment venue.

ACTIVITY 1 | COMPLETE THREE SENTENCES

Say each completed sentence aloud before writing it.

BECAUSE • gives a reason

The Romans built the Colosseum because ...

BUT • introduces a contrast

The Colosseum entertained Roman citizens, but ...

SO • explains a result

The emperor wanted to increase his popularity, so ...

ACTIVITY 2 | WRITE AN EXPLANATION

Use at least two causes. Begin: The Romans built the Colosseum for several reasons.

CAUSE & EFFECT

From organiser to writing | Teacher worked example

TEACHING FOCUS

Model how information from the organiser becomes connected explanatory writing.

STEP 1 | REVISIT THE CAUSES

CAUSE 1

To entertain
Roman citizens.

CAUSE 2

To demonstrate
the emperor's power.

CAUSE 3

To increase
the emperor's popularity.

STEP 2 | MODEL THREE SENTENCES

Explain how each connective changes the relationship between ideas.

BECAUSE • reason

The Romans built the Colosseum because emperors wanted to entertain large crowds.

BUT • contrast

The Colosseum provided entertainment, but it also demonstrated the emperor's power.

SO • result

Emperors wanted to increase their popularity, so they provided impressive public buildings and spectacles.

STEP 3 | BUILD A COHERENT PARAGRAPH

The Romans built the Colosseum for several reasons. They wanted to entertain large crowds because public spectacles were popular in ancient Rome. The Colosseum provided entertainment, but it also demonstrated the emperor's power. Emperors wanted public support, so they invested in impressive buildings and spectacles.

STEP 4 | DISCUSS AND CHECK

Ask: Which sentence gives a reason? Which introduces a contrast? Which describes a result? How do the ideas work together?