

Wembley

Activity 1 – What do these numbers and dates refer to?

1. 1923 _____
2. 127,000 _____
3. 2003 _____
4. 800 million _____
5. 133 _____
6. 1 _____

(there are two possible answers)



Activity 2

Answer the following questions:

1. Where is Wembley?

2. How long did the original stadium take to build?

3. When was the new Wembley finished?

4. How much does the roof arch weigh?

5. Why does the arch have a beacon?

6. What can move if the weather is very bad?

7. How does Chelsea connect the old and new stadiums?

Activity 3

Listen and complete the gaps

Wembley is an _____ in the London borough of Brent, and is home to one of the most famous stadiums in the world. Listen up, and I'll tell you all about it.

The _____ stadium was built in 1923 and cost £750,000. From start to finish it took 300 days to complete. Its original capacity was 127,000, which was later _____ to 82,000 for safety reasons. It closed its doors in 2000, and up until then the home of the England international football team, hosted the World Cup, the Summer Olympics, American football, speedway, greyhound racing and rugby league, not to mention concerts by such artists as Michael Jackson, The Rolling Stones, Madonna, U2, _____ – indeed, all of the biggest names in rock and pop!

It was a sad day in 2003 when demolition started and many people were _____ the idea, instead preferring to restructure the existing stadium. However, from the ashes of the old Wembley came the _____ new one. It was due to be ready in 2006, but in fact wasn't finished until March 2007. The final cost of the project was an incredible £800 million, but what exactly did all that money _____?

- Well, it's a 90,000 all-seater stadium built in a _____ design, with a massive arch going over the north end it.
- This arch is so big, the biggest single span roof arch in the world, that it can be seen from the other side of the city. It's 133 metres tall and weighs 1,750 tonnes, which if you can't imagine is the equivalent of 10 jumbo jets. It's so tall that it even has a beacon to avoid accidents with low flying _____.
- The roof of the new stadium, which weighs 7000 tonnes, is partially retractable, that is to say it can slide to _____ the spectators in bad weather, but not the pitch.
- The circumference of the stadium is 1km.
- There are 2,618 _____ – more than any other stadium in the world.



Just one last thing. The last ever FA Cup final played at the old Wembley was won by Chelsea, and the first ever FA Cup final played at the new Wembley was won by . . . yes, you guessed it – Chelsea, whose one goal was enough to _____ Manchester United.

TRANSCRIPT

Wembley is an area in the London borough of Brent, and is home to one of the most famous stadiums in the world. Listen up, and I'll tell you all about it.

The original stadium was built in 1923 and cost £750,000. From start to finish it took 300 days to complete. Its original capacity was 127,000, which was later reduced to 82,000 for safety reasons. It closed its doors in 2000, and up until then the home of the England international football team, hosted the World Cup, the Summer Olympics, American football, speedway, greyhound racing and rugby league, not to mention concerts by such artists as Michael Jackson, The Rolling Stones, Madonna, U2, Queen – indeed, all of the biggest names in rock and pop!

It was a sad day in 2003 when demolition started and many people were against the idea, instead preferring to restructure the existing stadium. However, from the ashes of the old Wembley came the magnificent new one. It was due to be ready in 2006, but in fact wasn't finished until March 2007. The final cost of the project was an incredible £800 million, but what exactly did all that money buy?

- Well, it's a 90,000 all-seater stadium built in a bowl design, with a massive arch going over the north end it.
- This arch is so big, the biggest single span roof arch in the world, that it can be seen from the other side of the city. It's 133 metres tall and weighs 1,750 tonnes, which if you can't imagine is the equivalent of 10 jumbo jets. It's so tall that it even has a beacon to avoid accidents with low flying aircraft.
- The roof of the new stadium, which weighs 7000 tonnes, is partially retractable, that is to say it can slide to protect the spectators in bad weather, but not the pitch.
- The circumference of the stadium is 1km.
- There are 2,618 toilets – more than any other stadium in the world.

Just one last thing. The last ever FA Cup final played at the old Wembley was won by Chelsea, and the first ever FA Cup final played at the new Wembley was won by yes, you guessed it – Chelsea, whose one goal was enough to beat Manchester United.