

## BIG BUILDINGS

By using arches, domes and vaults combined with lightweight concrete (see page 336), the Romans could build huge structures that were both light and strong. Every Roman city had a set of public buildings - temples, bath-houses, basilicas and arenas - all built on a grand scale with massive walls and pillars, rounded arches and roofs, and large, airy rooms where many people could gather together.

*This is the Pantheon in Rome, an enormous temple devoted to all the gods. Its vast dome, measuring 43m (140ft) across, was the largest in the ancient world.*

## TRIUMPHAL ARCHES

All over the empire, the Romans built grand triumphal arches and set up victory columns topped by statues. These impressive monuments were intended to celebrate great Roman victories, and their marble sides were covered with carvings showing battles, heroes and scenes from the glorious history of Rome and its empire.

### INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can see amazing reconstructions of Rome's ancient buildings and take a photographic walking tour of Rome's ruins today, go to [www.usborne-quicklinks.com](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com)

