

Italy Seeks Colosseum Defacing Tourist

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Echo (Verb) /'ɛkou/: To repeat or reflect a sound, sentiment, or idea.
Example: The mountains echoed with the sound of cheerful laughter.
2. Sentiment (Noun) /'sɛntɪmənt/: A feeling, opinion, or emotion about something.
Example: The painting evoked a sense of nostalgia and sentimental longing.
3. Defacement (Noun) /dɪ'feɪsmənt/: The act of damaging or disfiguring something, especially a public structure or property.
Example: The graffiti defacement on the historical monument saddened the local community.
4. Gladiator (Noun) /'glædi,etər/: A fighter in ancient Rome who battled in the Colosseum for entertainment and competition.
Example: The brave gladiator fought valiantly against fierce opponents.
5. Compel (Verb) /kəm'pɛl/: To force or strongly persuade someone to do something.
Example: The urgent plea in his voice compelled her to help immediately.
6. Vital (Adjective) /'vaɪtəl/: Of essential importance; crucial for survival or success.
Example: Adequate sunlight is vital for the healthy growth of plants.



The Italian government is searching for a tourist who carved his name on a wall at Rome's famous Colosseum and aims to punish him for his actions. In a video captured by another tourist, the young man was seen using a key to carve "Ivan + Hayley 23" on a brick wall of the ancient Roman amphitheater. Despite being questioned, the man remained silent while a young woman accompanied him. The video, shared on social media, drew attention to the incident.

The individual responsible for the damage was identified as a 27-year-old Bulgarian-born resident of Bristol, England, according to the Daily Mail. Italian culture minister Gennaro Sangiuliano expressed grave concern about the situation, emphasizing the need for respect towards historical sites like the Colosseum. The tourism minister, Daniela Santanche, **echoed** this **sentiment**, stating that visitors to their nation must not be allowed to behave in such a disrespectful manner.

American tourist Ryan Lutz, who filmed the incident, reported the act to a security guard at the Colosseum. However, the guard was unable to take action as he did not witness the **defacement**. If caught, the tourist faces up to five years in prison and a fine exceeding \$16,000, as reported by ANSA. This is the fourth incident of Colosseum damage under investigation by the police this year.

The Colosseum, built nearly 2,000 years ago, once hosted **gladiator** games where men were **compelled** to fight each other or animals. Throughout history, many have carved their names onto the structure, which could accommodate up to 80,000 spectators. Despite this, it remains **vital** to preserve and protect such historical treasures for future generations to appreciate.

DISCUSSION

1. How do you feel about the consequences the defacing tourist may face if caught by the authorities? Do you think the punishment is appropriate?
2. Defacement of historical landmarks like the Colosseum can cause irreversible damage. How can we raise awareness about the importance of preserving such cultural treasures for future generations?
3. The article mentioned that the library stopped charging late fees in 2020. What is your opinion on late fees for library materials? Do you think they are effective in encouraging timely returns?
4. Have you ever witnessed or heard about any instances of defacement or vandalism in public places or historical sites? How do you think we can discourage such behavior and promote respect for shared cultural heritage?
5. The article highlighted the importance of respecting historical sites like the Colosseum and the consequences faced by the tourist who defaced it. How can we instill a sense of responsibility and appreciation for cultural heritage in travelers and visitors to prevent acts of defacement in the future?