

# Bread and Circuses Connect Four Game

This activity was devised by Susan Hart and Stuart Scott in 1981. The information in the text mainly comes from Carcopini's 'Daily Life in Ancient Rome'. There is plenty of scope for improvement since recent archaeological work has uncovered more information and you could also add pictures. You will probably need to enlarge the game board and cards to A3.

The webaddress for this activity is: <<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/breadandcircuses.pdf>>

## COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

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Supporting a cooperative network of teaching professionals throughout the European Union to develop and disseminate accessible teaching materials in all subject areas and for all ages.

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## BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project publishes a catalogue of activities plus lists in selected subject areas, and a newsletter available by post or internet: "PAPERCLIP".

\*These activities were influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in mixed classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening. They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of speaking and listening and other formative assessment.

\*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

\*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in mother tongue and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

\*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

\*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

\*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

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# Bread and Circuses Connect Four Game

**Four Players:** three poor people and the emperor.

**Aim:** the emperor must try to stop the poor people from rioting. This was a constant problem in Rome.

**Preparation:** look at the poor people's complaint cards one at a time. Decide what kind of complaint they are making and place the cards on the right category on the game board. Then look at the emperor's reply/solution cards. Decide which replies go with which kind of protest and put them on the game board.

**How to play:** the game is a bit like noughts and crosses. The poor people of Rome work together to make a line of four protests (vertically, diagonally or horizontally). The emperor must try to stop the line by placing a reply/solution card on a protest card. If the poor people get four in a row then there is a riot and it is time to change emperors. Start again with another player as emperor. Every player takes a turn as emperor.

Starting play: Both sets of cards are shuffled and placed face down. The emperor starts by taking three reply cards. Poor people take turns to pick a card and place it on the board. The emperor goes last. He can place as many cards as he can on the protests but only ones that fit the protest. Every time he uses a card he can pick another from the pile, but he must never have more than three at any one time. Continue until either the poor people riot or there is a stalemate.

# Bread and Circuses Connect Four Game Board

No water	Dirty streets	Bad housing	No jobs
Bad housing	No jobs	Fire risk	Noise
Dislike city	Pay for toilets	No water	Prices too high
Danger in the streets	Trade and transport	No jobs	Fire risk

# Bread and Circuses Connect Four Protest Cards



<p>I protest. It is very hot and dirty in our street. We need to drink a lot. We have to walk a long way to get water.</p>	<p>I protest. Sometimes I get work bringing vegetables into the city at night. It is hot tiring work. When I get home I need to wash, but if I want water I have to go and get it.</p>	<p>I protest. The streets are dirty and full of rubbish. There are many bad smells. and the rubbish attracts wild animals.</p>	<p>I protest. When I walk home to my block of flats at night. `i take big risks. There are robbers and murderers at every corner.</p>
<p>I protest. Day after day passes and I can get no work.</p>	<p>I protest. Nothing is free in Rome. You even have to pay to go to the public toilets.</p>	<p>I protest. We cannot sleep at night. Carts of vegetables go rumbling past, and drovers shout at their cows and sheep all night.</p>	<p>I protest. Last night, walking home in the dark, someone emptied their chamber pot out of the window and splashed my best toga.</p>
<p>I protest. I had a job picking grapes for wine last year, but this year slaves have done the work.</p>	<p>I protest. I hate living in Rome. When I was a boy I lived in the country. Then my father went into the army and a rich man bought our farm.</p>	<p>I protest. I live with my family on the 6th floor of a huge block of flats. The wind blows the window and the cracks. Our room is tiny and we cannot cook in it.</p>	<p>I protest. Last week our block of flats caught fire. We had to run to the street in smoke and dust. We were lucky to escape. Some of the people living on the top floors died.</p>
<p>I protest. Rich men have slaves to fetch their water. Some of them even have water in their homes. But we have to walk to the nearest conduit and carry heavy pots up six flights of stairs.</p>	<p>I protest. The block of flats next to ours collapsed last week. Tiles and concrete are falling off our block. It iisn't safe to go to bed at night.</p>	<p>I protest. I don't have a regular job. When I do work, I only get 3 sesterces a day. My rent is 40 sesterces a week. I have to have a lodger in my tiny room to help pay.</p>	<p>I protest. The price of corn keeps going up. You never know if you are going to be able to afford it in the market. Sometimes it is too expensive.</p>
<p>I protest. My neighbour was cold last night and left his charcoal brazier alight. The wall caught fire and we all had to run naked into the street.</p>	<p>I protest. We can only get work from time to time. We are always short of food, clothes and money.</p>	<p>I protest. We cannot cook in our room because of the danger of fire. We have to buy our meals at the cookshop, and it costs us a lot more money.</p>	<p>I protest. Rich men are now buying slaves to do all their work. There's no work left for us. Even the public buildings are put up by slaves.</p>



# Bread and Circuses Connect Four Emperor's Solution Cards

<p>We have built beautiful parks, so that you can go out and walk in nice surroundings.</p>	<p>We have built new aqueducts to bring water to your area to put out fires.</p>	<p>There is work to be found helping with the harvest, if men are prepared to go out and look for it.</p>	<p>We have built new baths where you can wash, take exercise and enjoy yourselves with your friends.</p>
<p>You can come to the forum and get free grain for your family.</p>	<p>There are rich men who will take you on as their clients. They will give you money and presents. All you have to do is vote for them and do odd jobs.</p>	<p>We have built many public fountains in the streets so that you can get water easily.</p>	<p>There is more than enough work putting up the magnificent aqueducts, baths and temples we need for our city. Slaves cannot do it all.</p>
<p>We have arranged for fire patrols to watch out for fires, give warnings and put them out.</p>	<p>We have passed laws to make sure that merchants don't charge too much for food. Prices are not so high.</p>	<p>I have passed a law allowing fullers to place a pot outside their workshops for your convenience. Of course, they pay me a tax for this.</p>	<p>Every owner of a house must clean the street outside it. That is the law. I will punish those who leave the streets dirty for ten days.</p>
<p>We have groups of soldiers marching around the streets at night to keep order. Murderers and robbers are punished in the Coliseum.</p>	<p>We will sell you enough farm land for you and your family to make a living. We need more small farms in the provinces to grow corn for Rome.</p>	<p>You can go to law against anyone who injures you while you are walking in the streets.</p>	<p>You can join the army. We have put up soldiers' pay. You can become a centurion and get free land after only 25 years.</p>
<p>We have built magnificent aqueducts to bring water to your area, so you are never short.</p>	<p>We have made a law stopping all carts coming into Rome during the day. It would be impossible for traffic to travel with so many people in the narrow streets. It is better the carts come at night.</p>	<p>We have stopped developers from building flats that are more than 60 feet high. So buildings are safer now.</p>	<p>Every afternoon we put on shows for you at the circus and the Coliseum. You can go and watch the charioteers, the gladiators or the wild animals. You might even make some money.</p>