

## Wembley Stadium Answer Key

Original name: **Wembley Park Leisure Grounds**

Sports played there over the years:

1 **Cricket**

2 **Athletics**

3 **Football**

4 **Golf** (in no particular order)

Reason for building the Empire Stadium: **To overcome trauma of WW 1**

Improvements made to the original stadium between 1923 and 2000:

	<b>Type of improvement</b>	<b>Year carried out</b>
1	<b><i>Floodlights</i></b>	<b>1955</b>
2	<b><i>Electronic scoreboard</i></b>	<b>1963</b>
3	<b><i>Roof (made of glass and aluminium)</i></b>	<b>1963</b>

Cost of new stadium: **£798**

Problems with the construction project:

1 **Over-budget**

2 **Almost one year later than scheduled**

Organisations involved in the construction of New Wembley:

1 **Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

2 **Football Association**

3 **London Development Agency**

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### Script for 'Wembley Stadium – Old and New'

Wembley Stadium is the largest in the UK, with a maximum capacity of 90,000 spectators. It has a long and interesting history.

The site itself was originally called Wembley Park Leisure Grounds and it had facilities for a wide range of sports and activities, including cricket and athletics as well as football. It also had fountains, waterfalls and flowerbeds which visitors could enjoy.

In 1918, the British Government decided to hold a large-scale exhibition to help people overcome the trauma of the First World War and as the central feature of this it was decided to build a national sports arena on the site, which by this time had become a golf course. The stadium was known as The Empire Stadium and the first event to be staged there took place in 1923.

Between 1923 and 2000 a series of improvements were made to the stadium. These included the addition of floodlights in 1955 and an electronic scoreboard in 1963, along with a roof to provide protection from the elements to the spectators, though not the pitch itself. However, by 2000 the stadium could no longer cater for the needs of spectators and audiences and it was decided to rebuild it completely.

The new Wembley Stadium is the second largest in the world and holds the record for the number of seats under cover. It is the most expensive stadium built to date anywhere, having cost £798 million, significantly over-budget and almost a year later than originally planned. It is owned by the Football Association through a subsidiary, WNSL. The cost of the construction was funded by a consortium that included the Department for Culture Media and Sport, the Football Association, and the London Development Agency.

The new Wembley Stadium's single most characteristic feature is the arch, which supports most of the weight of the north and south roofs. It is now a feature of the London skyline and can be seen for miles.