

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE



TEXT COMPLETION



- While reading the text below on Sydney Opera House, fill in the blanks with the following words:
seating – team – halls – design – concrete – sides – symphony – money – roof – world – winner – mind.

The Sydney Opera House, opened in 1973, is a complex of theatres and ①, all linked together beneath its famous ② shells. Surrounded by water on three ③, the Sydney Opera House is one of the most magnificent buildings on one of the most beautiful harbours in the ④.

Prior to the Sydney Opera House, Sydney had no adequate music venue. In 1954 the premier of the day, Joseph Cahill, set up an appeal fund to raise ⑤ for the building and introduced the Opera House Lotteries. The building was completely paid for by July 1975.

An international competition was organized for the ⑥ of a performing arts complex. The competition called for a structure that contained two theatres – a large hall for opera, ballet, and large scale ⑦ concerts capable of seating 3,000-3,500 people, and a smaller hall for drama, chamber music, and recitals, capable of ⑧ approximately 1,200 people. More than two hundred different design entries were submitted from all over the world. The ⑨ was the Danish architect Jørn Utzon. Construction of the building started in March 1959 and went on over the next fourteen years. After the construction had started, the government changed its ⑩ and required that four theatres were incorporated into the design. Recently a fifth theatre has been created. After four years of research Utzon gave the ⑪ vaults a defined spherical form. But in 1966 Utzon resigned and a ⑫ of Australian architects completed the building.

FIND THE QUESTION

ACTIVITIES



- Read the following text about the Concert Hall of Sydney Opera House, then write questions for the answers below.



The largest hall of Sydney Opera House is the concert hall, which seats 2,679 people. It is used for a wide variety of performances including symphony concerts, chamber music, opera, dance, choral concerts, pop, jazz and folk concerts, variety shows and conventions.

The acoustics of the Concert Hall are highly regarded internationally. The ceiling, which rises up to 25 metres above the platform, and the upper walls are panelled with white birch plywood, while the lower walls, stairs, boxes and stage platform are panelled with a hard brown wood. Above the platform are suspended 18 adjustable acrylic acoustic rings or 'clouds', which assist musicians by reflecting some of the sound of the instruments straight back to the platform.

- ①
It is the concert hall.
- ②
About 2,700 people.
- ③
For a variety of performances such as symphony concerts, chamber music, pop and jazz concerts and conventions.
- ④
They are very good.
- ⑤
With white birch plywood.
- ⑥
With hard brown wood.

ROLE-PLAYING

- You are a student of architecture and you want to gather some information about the Opera House in Sydney. Your desk mate is the Opera House director. Ask him/her some questions about the building and its construction.