


# Gladiators and the Colosseum

## Lesson Objectives:

- **Be able to** identify how gladiators were chosen
- **Know** the different types of gladiators
- **Understand** what it would have been like to be a gladiator in Roman Times





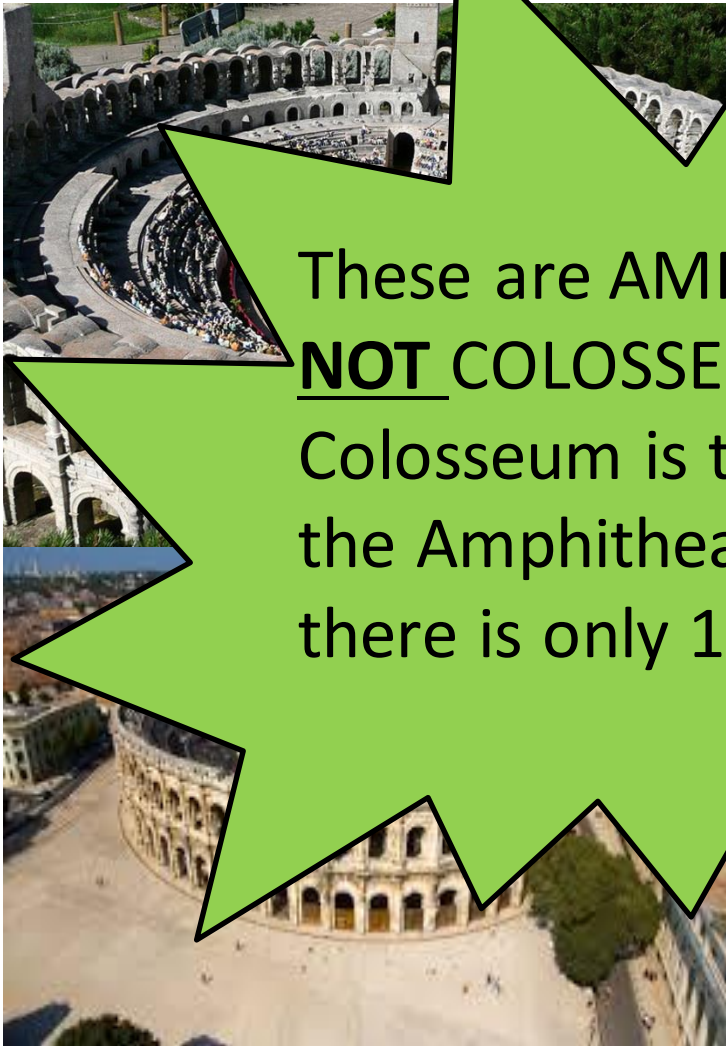
Who am I?

What is my job?

Where is my job based?

What did I do in my job?

# What are these?



These are AMPHITHEATRES  
**NOT** COLOSSEUMS. The  
Colosseum is the name of  
the Amphitheatre in Rome,  
there is only 1 Colosseum.



## Your fate awaits!!



It is the 1st century AD and you live in a village in the Roman province of Gallia, which covers a large area of northern Europe. You don't like the Romans much, and they don't like you or your people. The fact is the Romans invaded your territory more than 100 years ago, as they have done in many places, to build up the huge Roman Empire. They plan on ruling over you for a long time to come and say your people are uncivilised. They call you 'barbarians'. The Romans believe they are much better than you.

From time to time some of your people pick a fight with the Romans. But you're no match against the Roman army. If you're not killed in battle, then don't expect to be shown any mercy, you'll be taken prisoner and marched off to the city of Rome. If you survive the long journey you face an uncertain future.

**Task:** Write a short letter to your family back in Gallia. Tell them how you were captured and what the Romans are making you do

Be able to identify how gladiators were chosen





# Learning to fight!

Your new owner has decided you will be sent to a ludus gladiatorius - a school where slaves, criminals and other wretches are trained to fight as gladiators. Once inside, the gates will be locked and there will be no escape. You'll be trained to fight by a lanista or 'butcher', an old gladiator whose fighting days are over.



# Types of Gladiators

Task: Draw and label diagrams of all the 3 types of gladiators



## Thracian

carried a small square shield, wore either a full visored helmet or an open faced helmet with a wide brim, and carried a curved Thracian sword with an angled bend in the blade.



## Retairius

wore only a loincloth and a metal shoulder-piece on the left arm, and carried a net, a dagger, and a trident or fish harpoon.



## Secutor

carrying a large oval or rectangular shield and a sword or dagger, leather bands at the elbow and wrists and a round or high-visored helmet.

**Know** the different types of gladiators



# What was it like to fight in the Colosseum?

First men in armor came out and fought against wild animals, like bears or bulls or alligators or ostriches or lions or tigers. They captured the animals in faraway places and brought them to the stadiums specially. Then the Romans treated the animals badly to make them hungry and mean so they would fight. Usually the men killed the animals, but sometimes the animals killed the men, which everyone thought was very exciting.



# Gladiator Information



- Gladiators were different from Roman citizens because most of them were slaves
- **Patricians** paid for the close up seats, while the poor got the far seats where it was hard to see
- Gladiators had to fight for **3-5 years** to earn their **freedom**

- Slaves were mostly the people that fought each other
- Gladiators fought wild animals
- Gladiators used the armor and weapons that best fitted them
- Romans treated the animals badly and didn't feed them.
- Usually the gladiator fights were to the death

**Understand** what it would have been like to be a gladiator in Roman Times





# Questions

1. List 3 different types of gladiator
2. What sort of animals did the gladiators fight?
3. How did the Romans treat these animals and how did this affect the gladiators?

Okay

Simple identification  
and recall of learnt  
facts

- 
4. How was the Colosseum organised? (Where did the different people sit?)  
What does this tell us about Roman society?

Better

Using learnt facts to  
create reasons

# Interview with a Roman Gladiator

A top Roman magazine has sent a questionnaire to you, Rome's most popular new gladiator, to fill in. *Gladiator's Today* wants to make you a star, so tell them about yourself.



**Task:** Write an interview with a Roman Gladiator!

**Extension:** Think of any more questions you would ask a Roman gladiator and write the answers. You will be presenting to the rest of the class!

**Understand** what it would have been like to be a gladiator in Roman Times



# Example questions...

What is your name?

What sort of Gladiator are you?

How did you become a Gladiator?

What is it like being a Gladiator?

Describe your most dramatic fight ever.

# GLADIATOR'S TODAY

ONLY IN  
THIS WEEK'S  
EDITION!



AN INTERVIEW  
WITH ROME'S  
TOUGHEST  
GLADIATOR!

**BRUTUS  
MAXIMUS!**