The Gladiators
**Rome and The Gladiators**: unit key words starter.

**Task**: Colour code or number the following words and images with their definitions.

- **Strangle**
- **Criminal**
- **Beast**
- **Spectator**
- **Glory**
- **Gladius**
- **Manica**
- **Salute**
- **Coward**
- **Slaughter**

A person who has broken the law
To kill using hands around the neck
To win or be famous
A person who watches an event
Armour to protect arm and shoulder
A short Roman sword
An action to show respect
A wild or dangerous animal
The opposite of brave
A very bloody killing or murder

History.com
Who were the Gladiators?

Discover: the types of people who fought as gladiators  
Explore: the concept of a professional gladiator  
Skill: Knowledge and understanding.

After destroying its main rival, Barca of Carthage in 201 BC, the Romans began two hundred years of further wars and __________. By the end of this period, Rome controlled the whole of the Mediterranean and much of Europe. The Romans were used to violence. For example, if an army unit was cowardly in battle, one soldier in ten was randomly selected and battered to ________ by 9 other soldiers (hence the word decimate). Under the first emperor, Augustus in 31 BC, the Roman saw almost two hundred years of ________ (pax romana), thanks to the defence by their ________ armies. To keep alive memories of their warlike spirit the Romans set up __________ battlefields in cities and towns for public amusement, the Gladiator Games.. The ____________ in Rome and other great Roman amphitheatres was where they organised fights to the death between hundreds of gladiators. In AD 80, the Colosseum saw 100 days of continuous fights and executions. Gladiators were mostly __________, prisoners of war or slaves bought by a ‘lanista’ or owner of gladiators. Professional gladiators were free men who volunteered to fight. These free men found popularity and gained the support of rich Roman citizens by becoming gladiators.

1: Why did the Romans organise the gladiator contests?

______________________________________________________________________________

2: Where does the word ‘decimate’ come from?

______________________________________________________________________________

3: Where is the most famous amphitheatre located and what is it called?

______________________________________________________________________________

4: Give 3 types of people who became gladiators?

______________________________________________________________________________

5: Why was a professional gladiator different to the other types of gladiator?

______________________________________________________________________________
### Scissor
Little is written about this type of gladiator. It is thought they used a special short sword with two blades that looked like a pair of open scissors (perhaps to trap their opponents’ weapons between the twin blades). They also had a metal tube that covered the arm, the hand end capped with a dagger attached to it the end.

### Dimachaeri
Were light and fast, equipped for close-combat fighting. This gladiator used a two curved swords (scimitar or gladius). Their swords were used for attack and defence. The Dimachaeri were probably one of the most skilled, experienced and popular type of gladiator. They would have been ideally suited to fight heavily armoured opponents or other Dimachaeri.

### Bestiarii
They were known as the ‘beast fighters’ and were trained to fight wild and sometimes exotic animals. They had very little protection and were armed with a spear or knife / dagger. These gladiators were usually criminals that were sent to fight dangerous animals with a high probability of death for the human.

### Thracian
They wore broad rimmed Griffin shaped helmets that covered the whole head. They were protected by a small round or square-shaped shield / parmula, and their legs protected by two thigh-length guards / greaves. Their only weapon was the Thracian curved sword.

### Retiarius
A very common type of gladiator that carried a three pronged spear / trident, a dagger, and a large arm guard / manica extending to the shoulder and left side of the chest. They often fought Secutores or Murmillions. More protection was given by a metal shoulder shield / galerus, to cover the neck and lower face.

### Secutor
Also called ‘pursuers’, they were similar to the Murmillion, with the same armour and weapons, including the tall rectangular shield and the short gladius sword. The helmet of the Secutor, covered the whole face except for two small holes to protect his eyes from the prongs of the Retiarius’ trident. The helmet was round and smooth so that the Retiarius’ net could grip on it.

### Murmillion
This heavily armoured gladiator wore a large helmet with the shape of a fish on the crest. They were further protected with an arm guard, loincloth belt, a garter on his right leg and thick wrappings covering the tops of his feet. They also used a tall, military type shield and usually fought with Thracians or Retiarii.

### Hoplomachus
They were based on the Greek ‘armed fighter’. They wore quilted leg wrappings, loincloth, a belt, a pair of long shin-guards / greaves, an arm guard / manica on the sword-arm, and a brimmed helmet with a plume of feathers on the top and sides. They fought with a gladius and a very small, round shield. They also carried a spear, which the gladiator could throw before close combat. The Hoplomachi were paired against the Murmillion or Thracian.

### Equites
They were specialised gladiators that fought on horseback with a spear and gladius, dressed in a full tunic, with a manica / arm-guard. Generally, the Equites only fought other Equities.

### Samnite
An early type and heavily armoured gladiator. The Samnites were powerful Italian tribes whom the Romans fought wars with between 326 and 291 BC. The Samnite gladiator was armed with a long rectangular shield / scutum, a plumed helmet, short sword, and a greave on his left leg. It was said that Samnites were lucky since they got large shields and good swords.
The Top Ten Gladiator Types.

M القوم 1: to name the ten types of gladiator using the information provided. م القوم 2: Give one or two key features of each gladiator.
The Top Ten Gladiators Types:

- **Bestiarii**
- **Secutor**
- **Retiarius**
- **Scissor**
- **Murmillo**
- **Thracian**
- **Samnite**
- **Dimachaerus**
- **Equite**
- **Hoplomachus**
Recap: can you identify the types of gladiators in the images?
Did Most Romans Enjoy The Games?

Mission: to analyse and evaluate historical sources to gain a better understanding about how Romans felt about the games.

Did All Romans Enjoy The Games?

It is very easy to judge people from the past based on what we have seen in movies, based on common stereotypes or maybe even because of things you have been taught by your teacher. You are going to perform an investigation to try and gain a more accurate idea about the Roman people and what they said, felt and thought about watching the slaughter of humans and animals for their entertainment.

To most Romans the gladiator fights were more than killing. There was a magic about the games which they seemed to like. Entry to the games was free. It was a citizen’s right to see the games. There would often not be enough room in the Colosseum and there would be fights outside. People waited all night to make sure of a place when the games started in the morning.

Emperor Tiberius did not construct any new places for gladiator exhibitions and even left the fixing of Pompey's theatre unfinished after many years. He gave no gladiator shows at all, and did not like to attend to those given by others.

Ancient History Book.

Seneca, Roman senator and philosopher, tells of a visit he once paid to the arena. He arrived in the middle of the day, during the mass execution of criminals during the interval between the wild-beast show in the morning and the gladiatorial show of the afternoon:

All the previous fighting had been merciful by comparison. Now we have pure unadulterated murder. The combatants have no protective covering; their entire bodies are exposed to the blows. No blow falls in vain. This is what lots of people prefer to the regular contests, and even to those which are put on by popular request. And it is obvious why. There is no helmet, no shield to repel the blade. Why have armour? Why bother with skill? All that just delays death. In the morning, men are thrown to lions and bears. At mid-day they are thrown to the spectators themselves. No sooner has a man killed, than they shout for him to kill another, or to be killed. The final victor is kept for some other slaughter. In the end, every fighter dies. And all this goes on while the arena is half empty. You may object that the victims committed robbery or were murderers. So what? Even if they deserved to suffer, what's your compulsion to watch their sufferings?
Gladiator fights also took place outside the Colosseum. Very rich Romans would invite their friends to their homes for dinner. Once they were full with food and drink they called in the gladiators. Once one man had his throat cut they applauded / clapped with delight / happiness. Once finished they began to eat their food again.

A Roman writer explain what he saw when 100 lions were let into the arena. C AD 60

All of the lions were killed as they came out of the floor. It was not very exciting, as the lions did not fight like they do when let out of cages. Many of them unwilling to attack, were killed with arrows without a fight.

Source Unknown.

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Source Unknown.

‘Emperor Pompey slaughtered wild beasts of all kinds. Indeed, five hundred lions were used up in five days, and eighteen elephants fought against men in heavy armour. Pompey was angry when people began to feel sorry for the elephants. After they elephants were wounded / hurt and could not fight, they crawled about on their knees with their trunks raised toward the heavens, and seeming crying out in wonder why had they been taken from their homes far away. Where they calling to the gods to help?’

Cassius Dio, A Roman Writer.
"Don't forget, there's a big gladiator show coming up the day after tomorrow. Not the same old fighters either. They've got a fresh shipment in. There's not a slave in that batch. Just wait. There'll be cold steel and blood for the crowd. The amphitheatre / Colosseum will end up looking like a slaughterhouse. There's even a girl who fights from a chariot."

Written on a poster advertising Gladiatorial games.

"Kill, Kill they shout. Beat him! Burn Him! Why won't he Kill him with his sword? What a coward! Why can't he die more quickly? They must fight. Oh—it's the break. Let's have someone strangled while we wait"

A Roman writer explains what the Roman crowd were like when they watched the gladiators.

The Romans loved gladiators. They loved the men, the weapons, the fighting and the blood. The great amphitheaters of Rome, like the Colosseum, were always full with spectators, who watched men fight bloody battles, both with each other and with a dazzling array of wild and dangerous animals. It’s not hard to imagine the excitement

www.romanguide.com c 2005

"These fighters are sent out with no armour of any kind; they are open to blows at all points, an no one ever strikes in vain...The crowd demands that the victor who has slain his opponent shall face the man who will slay him in turn; and the last conqueror is reserved for another butchering" - Seneca.

St. Augustine, a Roman philosopher tells "The Story of Alypius", the story of a young man who gets taken to a gladiatorial show. St. Augustine writes about the "cruelty", and "lust", of the crowd. The character in the story, Alypius, is at first repulsed and disgusted by the violence, but then has a change of heart, mainly because he has been over-powered and influenced by the cheering crowd.

Taken from an online essay about the Gladiators - written in 2006.
**Did All Romans Enjoy The Games? Source Study**

**Mission:** to complete the questions and tasks related to historical sources.

**A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggests did enjoy</th>
<th>Suggests did not enjoy</th>
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**Question**

Why did Roman citizens fight outside the Colosseum?

Roman citizens fought outside the Colosseum because...

**B**

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<th>Suggests did enjoy</th>
<th>Suggests did not enjoy</th>
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**Question**

List the different animals you can taking part in the Venatio.

**C**

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<th>Suggests did enjoy</th>
<th>Suggests did not enjoy</th>
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**Question**

Give another meaning for the words below

Construct = b
Exhibitions = s
Attend = g

**F**

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<th>Suggests did enjoy</th>
<th>Suggests did not enjoy</th>
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**Question**

Why were the Roman people unhappy with Emperor Pompey?

The Roman people were...

**G**

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<th>Suggests did enjoy</th>
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**Question**

Guess the words left out of the source.

R
B
G

**L**

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<th>Suggests did not enjoy</th>
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**Question**

Compare source L to source A

Something that is corroborated is...
Something that is not corroborated is...
Suggests did enjoy  ○  Suggests did not enjoy ○

Compare source M to source F

Something that is corroborated is ..
Something that is not corroborated is ..

Suggests did enjoy  ○  Suggests did not enjoy ○

Can you give 3 examples of bias shown in the advertisement?

1
2
3

Suggests did enjoy  ○  Suggests did not enjoy ○

Does the Roman writer have a good or bad opinion of the crowd? ( explain )

1
2
3

Suggests did enjoy  ○  Suggests did not enjoy ○

Can you give 3 examples of bias shown in the source?

1
2
3

Suggests did enjoy  ○  Suggests did not enjoy ○

List 3 reasons why Seneca does not like what he has seen.

Suggests did enjoy  ○  Suggests did not enjoy ○

What type of source is this - primary, secondary or tertiary. Explain your answer.
Mission: to complete the puzzle carefully, check spellings and review your learning.

Across
7 The Ferry Man
9 These people (A)
12 A rebel gladiator
16 Type of gladiator (B)
19 Very popular gladiators
21 The capacity of the Colosseum
22 Usually made to fight without armour
23 A famous amphitheatre
24 The people of Rome
25 What is this? (C)
26 Bloody killing
27 'He has had it'
28 What is this? (D)
29 What is happening? (E)
30 'Those who are about to die *** you'
Rome and the Gladiators Answers

Mission: to complete the puzzle carefully, check spellings and review your learning.

Across
7 Charon
9 Spectators
12 Spartacus
16 Thracian
19 Women
21 Fifty Thousand
22 Criminals
23 Colosseum
24 Citizens
25 Manica
26 Slaughter
27 ‘Habet hoc habet’
28 Circus Maximus
29 Strangle
30 Salute

Down
1 Glory
2 Seneca
3 Gladius
4 Secutor
5 Thumbs up
6 Bestiarii
8 Hiplomachus
10 Trident
11 Senate
13 Prisoners
14 Venatio
15 Samnite
17 Myth
18 Professionals
20 Chariot Racing
21 Christians
Rome And The Gladiators

( Free Member Samples )

Full Pack Contents

Differentiated Vocab Builders
  The Birth of Rome
Who Were the Gladiators?
  Gladiators Source Types
Top Ten Gladiator Types
  Inside the Colosseum
What Else Happened In The Arena?
Uncovered - Female Gladiators
Top Ten Famous Gladiators
  Buy Your Gladiator
Equip Your Gladiator
Train Your Gladiator
Design Your Gladiator
Empathy and Creative Writing
  (The Diary of a Gladiator)
Who Was Spartacus?
  Investigation
  ( Did Most Romans Enjoy The Games? )
Writing Frames
Review - Crossword and Picture Puzzle
Review - Cut and Match Puzzle
Source Analysis and Enquiry
Review - PowerPoint Quiz
Media clips, Links and Games
Unit Assessment

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