

GAMES OF THE ANCIENT ROME

<http://www.ancient.eu/gladiator/>

EXCLUSIVE NEWS TODAY

GLADIATORIAL SHOWS

Introduction

A gladiator was a professional fighter who specialised with particular weapons and fought before the public in large purpose-built arenas throughout the roman empire from 105 BCE to 404 CE.



History and origin



The Romans were influenced by their predecessors in Italy, the Etruscan, in many ways .

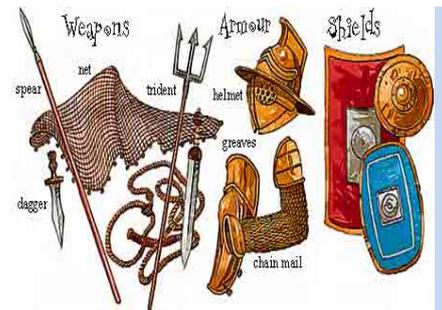
The Etruscan associated these **ladiatorales** contests with the rites of death and so **they** had a certain religious significance.

Although the first privately organised Roman contests in 264 BCE were to commemorate the death of a father, the later official contests discarded this element.

The enormous size of the amphitheatres indicates how popular these exhibitions were. The Colosseum was dedicated in AD 80 with 100 days of games.

Basic rules

Gladiators were armed with deadly weapons like the net, the trident, the spear and the dagger. Also they were armed with the shields and the armor (helmet, greaves and chain mail) and they were dressed with a subligaria?????.



Gladiators were recruited from different sources. The ethnicity of them was evident from the way they were dressed and armed. Referees were added to monitor the fight. A referee could stop the fight at any time, and usually did when one gladiator was injured.

If the crowd got bored the **referee** might call the fight a drawn, if the **emperor** was in attendance **he** might ask the crowd for a decision on whether or not to kill the loser.

Famous gladiators

Perhaps the most famous gladiator of all was Spartacus, who led an uprising of gladiators and slaves from Capua. **Another** famous **amateur** gladiator was a non-professional the emperor Commodus.

Crixo was a Gallic leader with Spartacus and Enomao, who was one of the three leaders of the Third Servile War.

Eleonora Pollaccia,
Elena Seburuth,
Luca Girasole,
Federica Saulle.