

Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will understand the basics of chemistry and how it relates to Roman Gladiators.

Materials and Prep

- Pen and paper
- Internet access
- Optional: Books or articles about Roman Gladiators

No prior knowledge is required for this lesson.

Activities

- Research Roman Gladiators and their weapons.

Find out what materials were commonly used to make their weapons, such as swords and shields. Take notes on the different types of metals and other materials mentioned.

- Explore the Periodic Table of Elements.

Using the internet or a book, familiarize yourself with the Periodic Table of Elements. Look for elements that were commonly used in ancient times and see if any of them were used in Roman Gladiator weapons.

- Create a Gladiator Weapon Element Chart.

Make a chart with the names of different Roman Gladiator weapons on one side and the corresponding elements used to make them on the other side. Use your research from step 1 and 2 to fill in the chart.

Talking Points

- **The Importance of Chemistry:** Chemistry is the study of matter and how substances interact with each other. Understanding chemistry can help us understand how different materials are made and how they can be used in various ways.
- **Roman Gladiator Weapons:** Roman Gladiators used a variety of weapons, including swords, shields, and spears. These weapons were made using different materials, such as iron, bronze, and wood.
- **Metals and Alloys:** Metals like iron and bronze were commonly used in Roman Gladiator weapons because they were strong and durable. Sometimes, different metals were combined

to create alloys, which had even better properties for weapons.

- **The Periodic Table:** The Periodic Table of Elements is a chart that organizes all known elements based on their properties. It helps scientists understand the different elements and how they can be used in various applications, including weapon-making.
- **Research and Analysis:** By researching Roman Gladiator weapons and exploring the Periodic Table, we can make connections between the materials used in ancient times and the elements we know today. This helps us understand the science behind their construction.