

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a better understanding of Roman gladiators and their role in ancient Roman society.

Materials and Prep

- Open space for physical activities
- Comfortable clothing and shoes
- Water bottle
- Access to books or online resources about Roman gladiators

Activities

- **Gladiator Training:** Create a mini obstacle course using household items such as chairs, pillows, and hula hoops. The student can pretend to be a gladiator and navigate through the course, practicing agility and balance.
- **Mock Battle:** Divide the student into two teams and have them engage in a friendly "gladiator" battle using soft foam swords or pool noodles. Encourage them to use different techniques and strategies they learned about Roman gladiators.
- **Create a Gladiator Costume:** Provide the student with various materials like cardboard, fabric, and markers. Have them design and create their own gladiator costume, explaining the significance of each element they include.
- **Research and Presentation:** Ask the student to research a famous Roman gladiator and prepare a short presentation about their life, accomplishments, and impact on Roman society. They can use visual aids or props to enhance their presentation.

Talking Points

- **Gladiators were trained fighters:** "Gladiators were highly skilled fighters who underwent intense training to entertain the Roman crowds."
- **Types of gladiators:** "There were different types of gladiators, each with their own weapons and fighting styles. Some examples include the retiarius with a trident and net, and the secutor with a sword and shield."
- **Gladiator games were popular in ancient Rome:** "The Romans loved watching gladiator fights in arenas called amphitheaters. These games were a form of entertainment and a way for emperors to gain popularity."
- **Life as a gladiator:** "Gladiators were usually slaves or prisoners of war. They were trained to fight and risked their lives for the amusement of the spectators."
- **Gladiators had fans:** "People in ancient Rome had favorite gladiators and would cheer for them during battles. Some gladiators became famous and had their own supporters."