

Objective

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

Materials and Prep

- Internet access
- Pen and paper

No prior knowledge is required for this lesson.

Activities

- **Research:** Have the student conduct online research about Roman Gladiators. They can explore topics such as the origins of gladiatorial games, the types of gladiators, and the significance of gladiatorial combat in Roman society.
- **Write a Story:** Ask the student to imagine they are a Roman gladiator and write a short story about their experiences. They can include details about their training, fights in the arena, and interactions with other gladiators or spectators.
- **Create a Gladiator Mask:** Provide the student with materials such as paper, markers, and scissors. Have them design and create their own Roman gladiator mask. They can use reference images from their research to inspire their design.
- **Act out a Gladiator Fight:** Encourage the student to engage in a role-play activity where they can act out a gladiator fight. They can create their own choreography or use simple props to enhance the experience.

Talking Points

- "Gladiators were skilled fighters who entertained audiences in ancient Rome."
- "Gladiatorial games were a popular form of entertainment for the Romans, held in arenas like the Colosseum."
- "Gladiators came from various backgrounds and were often slaves or prisoners of war."
- "Different types of gladiators had distinct weapons and fighting styles. For example, the retiarius used a trident and net, while the secutor had a sword and shield."
- "Gladiators received training in specialized schools called ludi. They learned combat techniques and how to perform for the crowds."
- "The outcome of gladiatorial fights could be determined by the audience or the emperor. Sometimes, defeated gladiators were spared, while other times they were killed."
- "Gladiatorial games were seen as a way to demonstrate Roman power and control over conquered peoples."
- "Gladiators often became celebrities, and some even gained their freedom through their success in the arena."
- "Gladiatorial games eventually declined in popularity as Christianity spread and Roman society changed."