

Objective

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

Materials and Prep

- Internet access
- Pen and paper

No prior knowledge is required for this lesson.

Activities

- **Research Roman Gladiators:** Encourage the student to use the internet to research and gather information about Roman gladiators. They can take notes on interesting facts, types of gladiators, and their roles in society.
- **Create a Gladiator Collage:** Provide the student with magazines or printed images of gladiators. They can cut out and arrange the images on a piece of paper to create a collage representing different types of gladiators.
- **Design a Gladiator Helmet:** Using paper, markers, and any other craft supplies available, have the student design and create their own gladiator helmet. Encourage them to be creative and incorporate elements from different types of gladiator helmets.
- **Write a Gladiator Diary Entry:** Ask the student to imagine themselves as a gladiator and write a diary entry describing a day in their life. They should consider the challenges, emotions, and experiences they might face.

Talking Points

- **Gladiators in Ancient Rome:** Gladiators were trained fighters who entertained audiences in ancient Rome. They fought in arenas called amphitheaters.
- **Types of Gladiators:** There were different types of gladiators, each with their own weapons and fighting styles. Some examples include the retiarius who fought with a trident and net, and the secutor who fought with a sword and shield.
- **Training and Preparation:** Gladiators underwent rigorous training to become skilled fighters. They practiced with weapons, learned combat techniques, and trained to entertain the crowd.
- **Gladiator Matches:** Gladiators fought against each other or against wild animals in the arena. These matches were often brutal and sometimes resulted in death.
- **Symbolism and Significance:** Gladiators were seen as symbols of bravery, strength, and Roman values. Their fights were a way for the Roman society to display power and control.