

# FINDING GLADIATOR INFORMATION

## UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF GLADIATOR

### Introduction activity

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Explain to the class that they are going to find out some information about the different types of Gladiators.

Explain that there were 2 main categories of gladiator:

- Heavily-armed gladiators
- Lightly-armed gladiators

The simple explanation being that the heavily-armed gladiators wore helmets and had large shields and the lightly-armed gladiators had small shields and didn't wear helmets.

<b>Heavily-armed groups of gladiators</b>	<b>Lightly-armed groups of gladiators</b>
<u>Galli (Heavily armed gladiators)</u>	<u>Dimachaeri (Gladiators with two swords)</u>
<u>Hoplomachi (Armed fighters)</u>	<u>Thraeces (Gladiators with curved swords)</u>
<u>Provocatores (Gladiators protected by a breastplate)</u>	<u>Equites (Horseback and sword gladiators)</u>
<u>Secutores (Slashers/Carvers)</u>	<u>Essedarii (War-chariot fighters)</u>
<u>Murmillones (Gladius and shield gladiators)</u>	<u>Laquerarii (Lasso fighters similar to Retiarii)</u>
	<u>Retiarii (Net fighters)</u>
	<u>Gladiatrices (Female gladiators)</u>

Discuss some of the different types with the class.

### Main part of the lesson

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Explain that in this lesson pupils are going to use some video footage of some Gladiator re-enactments that took place in London in July 2011 to find out some information about different gladiator types.

Demonstrate to the class how to access the Gladiator video clips from the Romans in London site and, as a class, watch one of them so that the class get a flavour of the video footage and understand that they are watching re-enactments.

Show the class the 'Blank gladiator information resource' which you have saved into a shared area on the network.

Explain that you would like the pupils to select one of the videos to watch, and, as they are watching, add into their column the given information, using the pause and play functions.

When pupils have found out the information for one gladiator, ask them to then work with another pupil to find out the information about a different gladiator, thus sharing and pooling information.

This could be extended to a second lesson where pupils e mail each other asking for information via e mail about a gladiator, using e mail to gather and collate information until they have a completed the 'Blank gladiator information resource' sheet.

Or this activity could be extended using the forum tool in your schools learning platform if appropriate. Pupils could add their gladiator information into the forum and then use other pupils' forum contributions to complete their information resource.

## Plenary

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As a class review the completed information sheets. There is a completed 'Finding gladiator information resource' available with all the answers.

Use the BBC Gladiator image resource to try to identify which types of gladiator are being represented here using information gathered in this lesson.

Use the 'Gladiator mosaic resource' for larger class resource.

