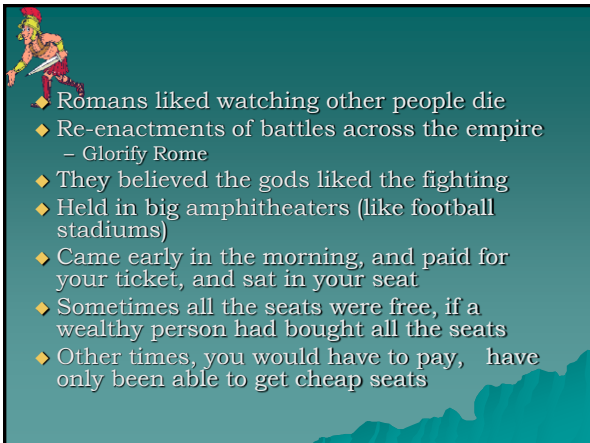
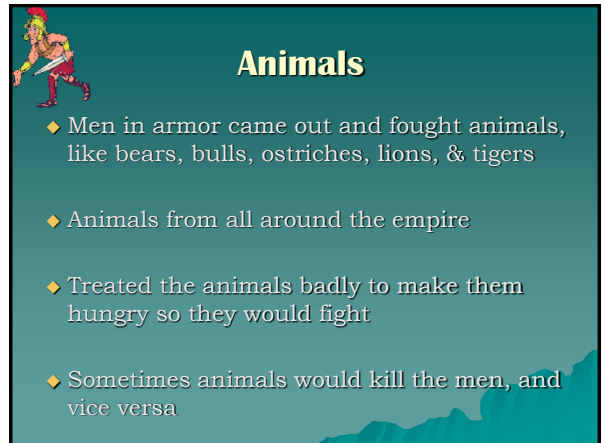


## Gladiator Facts

- ◆ Professional and amateur fighters
- ◆ Fought for the entertainment of its "civilized" spectators
- ◆ matches took place in arenas throughout the empire and for about 700 yrs.
- ◆ Man vs. man and man against animal engagements
- ◆ Combat that was at times to the death




- ◆ Romans liked watching other people die
- ◆ Re-enactments of battles across the empire
  - Glorify Rome
- ◆ They believed the gods liked the fighting
- ◆ Held in big amphitheaters (like football stadiums)
- ◆ Came early in the morning, and paid for your ticket, and sat in your seat
- ◆ Sometimes all the seats were free, if a wealthy person had bought all the seats
- ◆ Other times, you would have to pay, have only been able to get cheap seats




## Animals

- ◆ Men in armor came out and fought animals, like bears, bulls, ostriches, lions, & tigers
- ◆ Animals from all around the empire
- ◆ Treated the animals badly to make them hungry so they would fight
- ◆ Sometimes animals would kill the men, and vice versa

### Lunchtime Break

- ◆ Lunch break around noon – picnic time
- ◆ Others bought food from the vendors
- ◆ Half-time show that had singers, dancers, a play, or criminals executions
- ◆ Another show, where men fought men  
– Sometimes “specialty” shows



### Facts

- ◆ Gladiators were so enjoyed by the Romans that Augustus had to pass laws which limited their influence
- ◆ Gladiators could not fight without permission of the senate
- ◆ Different time periods had different laws for gladiators
- ◆ Spartacus was one of the most famous gladiators



## The Colosseum

- ◆ The “Flavian Amphitheater”
- ◆ 50,000+ people, 6 acres, 3 stories, 80 entrances, 36 trap doors
- ◆ Used for a variety of public entertainment
- ◆ In hot weather, large awnings (velarium) were stretched over the top to provide shade



## History

- ◆ Gladiatorial games possibly invented by the Etruscans, but there is little evidence
- ◆ First recorded games held in 310 BCE by a neighboring civilization
  - ◆ re-enactment of the military success
- ◆ 1<sup>st</sup> Roman gladiatorial games held in 246 BCE
  - ◆ small affair that included the combat of three pairs of slaves in a cattle market
- ◆ evolved into symbols of Roman culture and became an important part of culture for 700 years

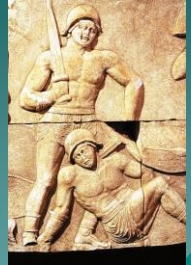


## History

- ◆ 183 BCE was traditional to hold games in which 60 duels took place
- ◆ 65 BCE, pitting 320 pairs of gladiators, against another in a wooden amphitheater
- ◆ By this point, gladiatorial games expanded beyond religious events, taking on political elements in Rome.

## Who were the gladiators?

- ◆ About 50/50 slave/free
  - Half condemned criminals, prisoners of war, or slaves bought for the purpose of gladiatorial combat
- ◆ Crowds preferred combat by free men over slaves
- ◆ Free men found popularity & wealth & celebrity
  - But not political status
- ◆ Criminals entered the arena weaponless



## Gladiator Training

- ◆ Trained like true athletes, received medical attention & three meals a day
- ◆ Training included learning how to use various weapons, including the war chain, net, trident, dagger, and lasso
- ◆ Allowed to fight in some sort of armor
- ◆ Free men were paid each time they fought. If a gladiator survived three to five years of combat they were freed. (rcvd. rudius)

## Types of Gladiators

- ◆ There were many categories of gladiators
- ◆ They were distinguished by the kind of armor they wore
  - the weapons they used
  - their style of fighting
- ◆ Most gladiators stayed in one category, and matches usually involved two different categories of gladiator.



## Gladiator Clothing in the Arena

- ◆ **Manicae** -wraps of leather for arm and wrist padding
- ◆ **Balteus**- which was a sword belt
- ◆ **Cingulum** -wide leather belt which was to protect waistline
- ◆ **Fascia**- leather, protective leg padding worn below shin
- ◆ **Galerus**- metal shoulder guard of the gladiator
- ◆ **Subarmallis**- padded linen worn under armor to provided extra protection, straw-filled
- ◆ **Ocrea**- a metal leg guard, ran from the knee, or sometimes the thigh, to below the shin protecting the front of the leg



## Thracian

- ◆ **Thracian:** Wide-brimmed crested helmet with visor
- ◆ Protection on both legs
- ◆ arm protector
- ◆ very small shield
- ◆ short, curved sword



## Secutor

- ◆ Egg-shaped helmet with round eye-holes
- ◆ Guard on one leg, arm protector
- ◆ Legionary-style shield and sword
- ◆ Small black helmet in the.
- ◆ The **secutor** was called a "chaser,"
- ◆ Frequently paired with the **retiarius**, who used running as one of his tactics.





## Retiarius

- ◆ **Retiarius** ("net-and-trident" fighter):
- ◆ Arm protector
- ◆ Large net, trident, small dagger, and no helmet
- ◆ The only type of gladiator whose head and face were uncovered.
- ◆ Wore no defensive armor, the retiarius was more mobile
- ◆ More vulnerable to serious wounds.



## Hoplomachi or Samnite

- ◆ Fully armored, and based on Greek hoplites.
- ◆ Wore a helmet with a stylized griffin on the crest,
- ◆ woolen quilted leg wrappings, and shin-guards.
- ◆ They carried a spear in the Hoplite style with a small round shield.



## End of the Gladiators

- ◆ The "games" ended around 500 CE due mainly to cost
- ◆ Serious damage from earthquakes
- ◆ Colosseum continued to be used for events/gatherings
  - Even Christian events
  - Large cross hung there til 1870s