

## Gladiator

The winner of hunger games. Is that a gladiator? Today we think of gladiators as people who rode on a single person carriage, with two horses pulling them into a big arena in Rome. We think they are warriors for the entertainment of the people. We think they fight other gladiators, and fight them to the death. That is actually not entirely what a gladiator is. We now know a greater understanding of the Roman gladiators that we thought we knew today.

First and foremost, the gladiators did not always fight to the death. In the article, "Did Gladiators Really Fight to the Death?" It says, "Gladiators didn't always fight to the death. These ancient Roman athletes were highly trained professionals. They made their living fighting, not dying." Gladiators were very skilled and trained professionally. Professionals against other professionals did not always kill each other. It was hard for them to kill each other because they were equally good most of the time. It's like if you were a full grown man who was boxing another full grown man with the same strengths, there is going to be almost no winner. If you were boxing a ten-year-old on the other hand, there would be an easy win. The same article also claims, "Gladiators were expensive to train, killing off large numbers of them would have been a bad business decision," Why spend tons of money on two gladiators and then just have half the money wasted from one killing the other.

Aside from fighting to the deaths, gladiators were often trained in schools. The article, "Gladiator University?" claims to say, "Archaeologists have made a big discovery—The nearly complete remains of an ancient Roman gladiator school. The massive school, built during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. includes cellblocks, a training arena, and a bath complex," These were schools that retired gladiators taught at to train gladiators. The gladiators often fought and trained with retired gladiators to become better and be taught the skill the gladiator training them had received,

Finally, Gladiators used medical treatment on wounds that they got from weapons of other gladiators. The essay, "Gladiator University?" says, "The gladiators used weapons such as swords, spears, and daggers." Weapons like these cause serious injuries that can't be healed with a band aid. The same article also says that at the school they found there were hospitals. The essay, "Did Gladiators Always Fight to the Death?" says, "In 2007 scientists discovered an 1,800-year-old graveyard in Turkey. It contained thousands of bones and remains of gladiators. Some of the skeletons showed evidence of healed wounds, suggesting that gladiators received medical treatment." The gladiators had to have medical treatment due to the wounds of the weapons from other gladiator weapons.

In conclusion, the gladiators had a different lifestyle than we thought, it wasn't all fight and kill. They lived and retired, and became teachers to young gladiators in training.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Informational Writing**  
**Writing Prompt: Gladiator**

Archeological developments have changed the way we understand how gladiators lived because of the new evidence we have found. Before we always believed that the gladiators fought to the death but now some believe that wasn't always the case. We have learned that a gladiator's life was based on fighting, and that's what they always practiced for, they made their living fighting, but not dying. We believe that it was extremely expensive to train these Roman athletes so, killing off large amounts of these people would be a bad business decision. The remains that were found of these Romans were not buried either. They were put on display in open pits where everybody could go see them and learn about what happened to these people. The ages that were found of the ones that were killed, were between the ages of 18, and 35 years old. The evidence we found now showed that some of these people were most likely not even killed by just fighting to the death. It shows that they might have, just been executed criminals, or they could have just been defeated by their enemies. Most of the skulls show evidence of multiple head injuries. Most gladiators were slaves of people who had a lot of control over them for certain amounts of time. If these gladiators competed in many of these fights they could end up being free and not a slave to anybody anymore at all. Huge crowds would gather to watch the battle of death, in amphitheaters, sort of like the real hunger games. They slept in 32-square foot cells with one or two people per cell. These rooms were separated from bigger rooms where their trainers slept. The find at Carnation gives us a vivid impression of what it was like to live and train as a gladiator. In Turkey it contained thousands of bones, and tombstones identifying the remains of these gladiators. Some of the skeletons showed evidence of healed wounds, suggesting that these gladiators sometimes received medical treatment. Other skeletons showed signs of violent deaths including blows from weapons such as tridents, hammers, and swords. Some of these gladiators were forced to fight, but when they did they sometimes ended up becoming rich, and famous depending on how good they were.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Informational Writing**  
**Writing Prompt: Gladiator**

Gladiators are often portrayed in Hollywood movies as incredible men that would fight to the death in huge arenas, and until quite recently this was a very accurate description. Now new evidence shows that there was more to gladiators than meets the eye. During the Roman Empire's reign, Gladiators were extremely popular. Successful gladiators were like movie stars, very famous and very rich. Huge crowds would watch these battles and because of this Gladiators brought a lot of income to certain people. Recently new evidence has showed us how the Gladiators actually lived. Common misconceptions have been put at rest including how they lived, and if they always fought to the death.

The first discovery that we found about gladiators is how and where they lived. Gladiators were a mix of slaves forced to fight and people looking for glory. Recently near Vienna, Austria scientists have found a school that gladiators would have stayed at. This complex included a training arena, cellblocks (their sleeping quarters), and bath houses. It was a major find and showed us that although the complex was almost like a prison the gladiators received training before their battles. Scientists are still looking for more information on how gladiators lived and ate, but the discovery of where almost 80 gladiators lived was a great find.

The second misconception that scientists have put in the light is the idea that all gladiators fought to the death. Whenever we watch movies or read books about these fierce warriors, we always believe that they fight to the death. Although some fights fought to the death, the majority of them was won when a clear victor was realized. If every gladiator fight fought to the death, many people would lose a lot of money. Training, feeding, and housing gladiators was very expensive and to have a fight to the death, sponsors would have to pay extra. In 2007 scientists found remains of gladiators and saw that many of them had received medical treatment. It was obvious that every gladiator fight wasn't to the death.

In conclusion, the ideas that gladiators always fought to the death and how and where they lived has been put at rest with archeological finds showing us that our previous ideas were flawed. Scientists are still trying to find out more about these warriors but for now these new discoveries have cleared up many mysterious secrets of gladiators.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Informational Writing**  
**Writing Prompt: Gladiator**

Archelogy has changed a lot in the past years. There are all kinds of new technologies, and ways to figure out how people used to live and function. This technology has helped many archeologists learn more about how the Roman gladiators lived. Recently archeologists found the remains of an ancient gladiator school, and they didn't find it by digging, but they found it by using a new noninvasive technique called aerial, it's a picture taken by aircraft to find all kinds of new archeological sites to study and learn about. They also used an electromagnetic sensor connected to a four-wheel all-terrain vehicle that helped sense hidden bricks in the ground. After they got all of the information they needed they re-created the ancient School by using virtual 3-D models. This recent discovery thanks to modern technology has helped archeologists grasp how the Roman gladiators lived.

Technology has helped the study of Roman gladiators take off, researchers have been able to understand the life of a gladiator even better now. The discovered gladiator school was two stories high, and there was a courtyard, a practice arena, heated floors for the winter, plumbing, a hospital, and a graveyard. About eighty gladiators trained year-round at this school, they slept in cells with a cellmate, and the trainers got special treatment and had larger rooms than the trainees. The head of the study team Wolfgang Neubauer, believes that they were treated and kept as prisoners because they were kept in a fortress with only one gate out. If there were no advanced technology archeologists would have never discovered the school and they would have never really known how the gladiators really lived. Apart from what they had already known, they would know nothing else, maybe they would've come across the school eventually but it could've been awhile before the technology was put out as a resource.

Another discovery that was made because Of technology was the discovery 39 complete and partial human skulls. This was discovered in London. Now thanks to technology archeologists were able to excavate they skulls and then analyze them to find out the age and sex of the person whose skull it once had been. Now they know that most of the skulls belong to men between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Informational Writing**  
**Writing Prompt: Gladiator**

9-20

What was it like living as a gladiator? Have you ever wondered well, I'll let you know what it was like? Way back in 27 B.C. during the Roman Empire gladiator fights were very popular. People who crowd into places just to see those fights. Life as a gladiator wasn't easy it was almost slavery, they lived in fortresses with only one gate they were prisoners. Gladiators could be two things slaves or heroes, the more matches you won the more famous and respected you became or the more you lost the more you became hated or not liked.

Dangerous is an understatement of what they did courageous is another word. Gladiators bodies and bones were studied and some of the stuff they found was awful. If you got an injury two things would happen, if you had non-life threatening injuries then you would get medical treatment until you were better or if your injuries were life threatening you would be killed with either a hammer or swords. Gladiators didn't always die there was still hope to survive because not all matches ended in death. London and parts of Australia have been discovered to have ancient gladiator villages so this brings up the question did gladiators live in other places besides the Roman Empire areas? We don't know.

The Roman Empire lasted for many years but when were gladiator fights most popular 27 B.C. to 393 A.D. is when the fights were most popular. Those gladiators risked their lives and bodies for amusement and most of them didn't want to be they were forced to fight. Gladiators lived rough lives and for the most part was in battles all of their lives. If this essay didn't bring you into what their lives were like I don't know what will.