

## Gruesome Gladiators

Being a gladiator in ancient Rome was serious business! Thousands of spectators would visit **Amphitheatres** to be entertained and watch gladiators fight. Although these skilled warriors were often classed as celebrities, many of the gladiators were slaves fighting for their freedom. A **Lanista** put potential gladiators through gruelling training regimes, until they became highly skilled and ready for combat - violent confrontations with other gladiators, wild animals and condemned criminals. Every gladiator had different strengths and areas of expertise in terms of fighting and weapons, which meant that the battles would be unpredictable and exciting to watch. It was possible for some of the best gladiators (those who survived) to make a lot of money and eventually retire as free men but they had to defeat many combatants over many years before this was even a possibility.

The most famous gladiator was Spartacus, who led an army of escaped gladiators and slaves to fight against the Roman army. They fought for the freedom of slaves but were eventually defeated. Spartacus died in battle in 72 B.C.E.