

Roman Gladiators

Were They All the Same?

When we imagine what a Roman gladiator looks like, we probably all have a similar image in our minds. However, not all gladiators were the same. Some fought with swords, others fought with daggers and nets. Some wore a lot of protective clothing, and others did not. Here are some important differences between some types of gladiators.

Andabatae

Not only were these gladiators made to charge at each other whilst on horseback, they had to do it without being able to see. They did wear chainmail and helmets, but their helmets had no eye holes.

Velites

These gladiators did not fight on horseback. Instead, they fought on foot. They were armed with light javelins to throw at their enemies.

Retiarii

These gladiators fought with tridents, daggers, and nets. They were protected by something called a manica, which is an armguard. Sometimes, they wore a metal shoulder shield to protect their neck and face.

Dimachaeri

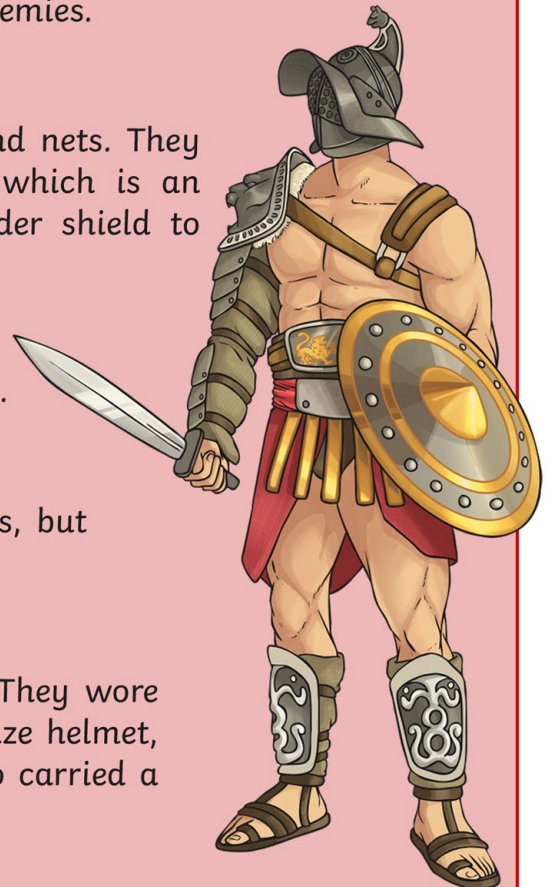
These gladiators fought with a sword in each hand.

Laquearius

These gladiators were similar to retiarii gladiators, but they also used a lasso or a noose.

Hoplomachus

These gladiators fought with spears and swords. They wore quite a lot of protective clothing, including a bronze helmet, leg padding, a manica and shin guards. They also carried a small shield.



Perhaps you can create and name a brand new Roman Gladiator!

What would he wear?

What weapons would he have?