

Roman Entertainment

1. What were "ludi"?

Official holidays dedicated to the gods.

2. How many "ludi" were celebrated each year by the end of the Republic ?

Fifty.

3. What were the oldest "ludi"?

The "Ludi Romani" begun under the kings.

4. What were "ludi scaenici" and "ludi circenses" ?

"ludi scaenici" - theatrical shows

"ludi circenses" - chariot races



5. What types of plays replaced tragedy and comedy as popular shows at the "ludi scaenici"?

Pantomimes which were dramatic stories of myths and **Mimes** which were slapstick comedy.

6. What were the most popular type of "ludi"?

The "ludi circenses".

7. Identify these items identified with the "ludi circenses".

factiones - the four competing teams in a chariot race, the whites, reds, blues and greens, (six under the emperor Diocletian, adding the purple and gold which never became popular and were dropped after his emperorship). People bet heavily on their favorite team.

mappa - the napkin that was dropped to start a chariot race.

spina - the central platform in the middle of the oval race track.

meta - the turning post at the ends of each side of the track.



8. How many races were usually held each day of the "ludi circenses"?

24 races of seven laps each.

9. How were the laps counted?

Seven huge eggs of marble or wood were hoisted high above the "spina".

10. Why did charioteers carry a knife in his belt?

To cut himself free of the reins that were wrapped around his wrist in case his chariot crashed.



11. What were "munera" and what was their original purpose?

"Munera" were gladiatorial fights that originally were part of funeral rites owed to the dead.

12. Where were "munera" conducted before the "Coliseum" was built by Vespasian?

In the Circus Maximus and the Roman Forum.

13. Who put "munera" on during the Empire.

Only the emperor put on "munera" during the empire.

14. What were "naumachiae"?

Naumachiae were naval gladiatorial fights put on in the river Tiber or in the Coliseum which could be flooded when it was first built



15. What was the official name of the "Coliseum"?

The "Amphiteatrum Flavium".

16. What is a "triumphator"?

The highest honor that Rome could bestow on a victorious general was to allow him to march as "triumphator" through Rome in a procession at the head of his troops preceded by the captives and plunder they had captured in battle. Only the emperor was allowed to be a "triumphator" during the empire.



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17. What was the ultimate purpose of the lavish displays of the chariot race, gladiatorial fights, processions and plays during these official holidays.

These public holidays which everyone attended allowed all, rich and poor, to take part in and relish in the history, the gods and the power of Rome.

*****This is not all you need to know. Re-read the reading.*****