

Reading Review

Gladiatorial Shows

1. Who paid for "gladiatorial shows"?

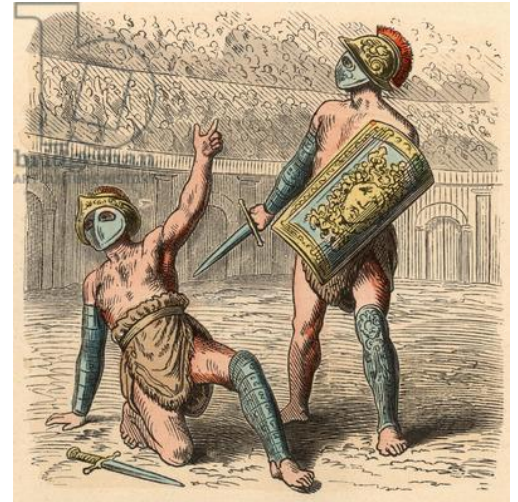
There was no admission fee. The costs were paid for by wealthy citizens.

2. What signaled the end of a gladiatorial fight?

The death or surrender of one of the contestants.

3. Did the losing gladiator always die?

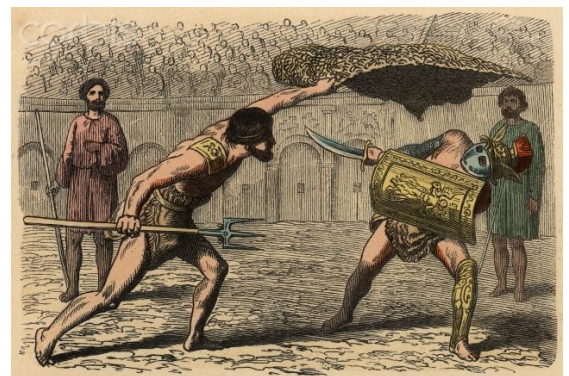
No. If he was not severely wounded, he had a very good chance of being allowed to live and fight another day. This was decided by the sponsor of the fight who was influenced by the crowd.



4. How did the spectators signal their desire for the losing gladiator to be allowed to live or to be killed?

A thumb up to the chest or neck meant death.

A thumb down into the open fist meant to spare the life of the gladiator.



5. What is the meaning of "suspirium puellārum"?

The girls' heartthrob.

6. What type of weapons and armor did the following gladiators use?

Samnite: oblong shield and a short sword

Thracian: round shield and a curved sword or dagger

Murmillo: a sword, a shield and a helmet with a crest shaped like a fish

retiarius: nets and three-pronged tridents

7. What was a "vĕnātiō"?

The "vĕnātiō" was a hunt of wild beasts (bĕstiae). Animals were released from cages and were hunted by trained beast fighters called "bĕstiārīi".



The Riot at Pompeii

8. How do we know about the riot at Pompeii?

The historian "Tacitus" tells about a riot Pompeii in 5 A.D. during a gladiatorial match. Stone throwing between the Pompeians and their neighbors the Nucernians led to sword play which ended in many Nucernians being killed. The emperor after an investigation banned gladiatorial fights in Pompeii for ten years and the sponsor was sent into exile.

