

# **In the Amphitheatre**

***Title: In the Amphitheatre***

***Area: Classical Culture & English***

***Type of Activity: whole class search***

***Location: Class or Amphitheatre***

***Time to do it: 1-2 hours***

***Function practised: speaking***

***English Objective: Essential vocabulary, describing people, whose, present simple, w- questions, yes/no questions***

***Classical Culture Objective: Knowledge about gladiator games***

## **How to use the game**

Play this game with any number of students. Make one copy of the questionnaire for each student in the class or amphitheatre. You can leave the questionnaire completely blank so that the pupils fill in both names and information. They will be asking w-questions).

If you have a big group of pupils, you can give the questionnaire to some part of the pupils with and the information to the other part.







When you have prepared the questionnaires, give one to each student in the class. The object of the game is to complete the questionnaire. To do this, students will have to move around the class, asking each other questions until they have enough information to complete the questionnaire.

As they finish, ask students to sit down in pairs and give each other a quiz on the information they have gathered (for example Whose weapons are the sica and the parma?, Tell me the name of the gladiator who likes venationes, etc.

## In the Amphitheatre

Classics Department of ies Vegas Bajas, Montijo, (Badajoz)





Ángel Luis Gallego Real

<p>You are <b>Caladus</b> the Thracian, because you were born in Thrace, a region of northdern Greece. You have got a curved short sword, the sica, and a small round shield, the parma. You wear a full visored helmet, and ochrea (a kind of boots) on both legs.</p>	
<p>You are <b>Pompeius</b> the Samnite or Secutor. You carry a sword or a lance, a scutum (the rectangular shield used by Roman legionary soldier), a metal helmet and protective armour on your right arm and left leg.</p>	
<p>You are <b>Maximus</b> the Murmillo or "fishman", because you have a fish-shaped crest on your helmet. You have the same equipment of the Secutor, except for the helmet; Your helmet has got a high angular crest and broad curvede brim.</p>	
<p>You are <b>Lucius</b> the Retiarius or "net-man". You wear no armour at all. You try to catch your opponent in your net, or use the net to trap the other man. Then, you stab him with a long razor-sharp trident.</p>	
<p>You are <b>Decimus</b>, the best gladiator in the Roman world. You have been a gladiator for three years; if you survive two years more you'll be free. In front of the Emperor, you love reciting the famous phrase: Ave Caesar, Morituri te Salutant, Ave, Caesar, we who are about to die salute you.</p>	
<p>You are <b>Caius</b>, a citizen who loves going to the amphitheatre to see gladiator games. The best moment for you if when one gladiator falls down wounded. The emperor decides his fate, according to the crowd's wishes. You allways point your thumbs downward (pollice verso), the signal for the victor to drop his sword.</p>	

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<p>You are <b>Flaccus</b>, a citizen who likes gladiator games, especially venationes, In this combat gladiators have to hunt wild animals from far places in the Roman empire. Sometimes some of these animals are tamed and instead of fighting they perform tricks!</p>	
<p>You are <b>Horatius</b>, a well known gladiator in Hipania. You were made prisoner of war and then slave. You have fought in all amphitheatres around the Roman empire. You have only one wish: to fight in the Colosseum, the arena of Rome.</p>	
<p>You are <b>Commodus</b>, the Roman Emperor. You organize gladiator games to keep people amused. As Emperor, you mustn't participate in gladiatorial combat. But some emperors (Nero or Caligula for example) allowed the senatorial class to take part in these games. You are more vigorous than this guy, Maximus...</p>	
<p>You are <b>Claudia</b>, a woman who likes going to the amphitheatre and seeing gladiators because you think, they are very sexy and handsome men. If you could, you would go to bed with Caladus, the Thracian, because everybody says he "makes all the girls sigh".</p>	

### Questionnaire

- \_\_\_\_\_ is a gladiator whose weapons are \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a gladiator whose weapons are \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a gladiator whose weapons are \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a gladiator whose weapons are \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a gladiator whose favourite phrase is \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a citizen whose signal is \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a citizen whose favorite gladiator game is \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a gladiator whose ambition is \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a Emperor whose whis is \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a woman whose hero is \_\_\_\_\_