

The gladiators

It was called gladiator who struggled with one another or with a beast in the public games of ancient Rome. It is said that its name comes from gladius, sword they used. The gladiators were usually slaves, prisoners of war or convicted of a felony. Practicing the fight were given the opportunity to get their freedom, fame and, in many cases, considerable economic position. There were also people who were admitted to the Ludi (training schools and training of gladiators) with the sole purpose of fun and get fame..

- The Samnites with large curved shield, a helmet with visor, crest and crest of feathers, a guard on the left leg, a kind of metal or leather cuff covering part of the shoulder on the right arm and a short sword.



- The

Mirmillons were distinguished by their large helmet with a high crest edges, giving them the look of fish. They wore short tunic, wide belt, armour on his left leg and his right arm and the classic curved rectangular shield of the Roman legionary. His weapon was the short sword.

- Thracian gladiators had a small rectangular shield and a short sword and bend. His clothing included armour in both legs, as necessary its small shield, protective shoulder and sword arm, short tunic with wide belt and helmet lateral plume, visor and high crest.



- Secutors, were armed with helmet, shield and sword, weapons were equal to those of Mirmillons, except for the toun, which was completely smooth, with small holes for the eyes, avoid getting caught in the net of Retiree.



- Retiarii, they wore a skirt with belt and carried the left arm covered with a sleeve, going bareheaded and armed with a net, a trident and a dagger.



There were many more classes, horse-drawn carriage, with whips and it is believed that there were women gladiators.

After a good fight a gladiator could be forgiven even if he had been defeated only with a gesture of thumb sponsor of the match or the highest authority

Did you know ... some gladiators have etched his name in history and have been reproduced in movies and TV series? Investigate some of them.

The races

In ancient Rome, the most important place where horse races were held was the Circus Maximus.

When cars were ready, the emperor or other host dropped a cloth to indicate the start of the race.

Once the race started, the cars could anticipate each other to try to cause your opponents crash into cars or different elements.



The races were the most important of the four-horse chariots, the chariots (there were two horses, *Bigas*, and three, *Trigas*).

Like gladiators, the drivers of the cars were slaves.

Circus seats were free for the poor, since during the Empire did not have much to do, they were not as involved in political and military affairs as they had been during the Republic. The wealthy could pay for shaded seats and where the view was better, and probably also spent much time betting on the races.

1. Do you know current sports or entertainment like chariot races and gladiator fights? Where are performed and how they are alike? Research at home.