

amphitheātrum



1 nūntiī spectāculum nūntiābant.
Pompēiānī nūntiōs audiēbant.



2 gladiātōrēs per viam prōcēdēbant.
Pompēiānī gladiātōrēs laudābant.



3 puellae iuvenēs salūtāvērunt. iuvenēs
quoque ad amphitheātrum contendēbant.



4 servī fēminās spectābant, quod fēminae ad spectāculum contendēbant.



5 puerī per viam festinābant. puellae puerōs salūtāvērunt.



6 Pompēiānī tabernās nōn intrāvērunt, quod tabernae erant clausae.



7 postquam gladiātōrēs Pompēiānōs salūtāvērunt, Pompēiānī plausērunt.



8 Pompēiānī gladiātōrēs intentē spectābant, quod gladiātōrēs in arēnā pugnābant.



9 spectātōrēs murmillōnēs incitābant, quod murmillōnēs saepe victōrēs erant.

gladiātōrēs

Rēgulus erat senātor Rōmānus. in villā magnificā habitābat. villa erat prope Nūceriam. Nūcerīnī et Pompēiānī erant inimīcī. Nūcerīnī, quod amphitheātrum nōn habēbant, saepe ad amphitheātrum Pompēiānum veniēbant; saepe erant turbulētī.

Rēgulus ōlim spectāculum splendidum in amphitheātrō ēdidit, quod diem nātālem celebrābat. multī Nūcerīnī igitur ad urbem vēnerunt. cīvēs Pompēiānī erant irātī, quod Nūcerīnī viās complēbant. omnēs tamen ad forum contendērunt, ubi nūntiī stābant. nūntiī spectāculum optimum nūntiābant:

'gladiātōrēs adsunt! vīgintī gladiātōrēs hodiē pugnant! rētiārī adsunt! murmillōnēs adsunt! bēstiārī bēstiās ferōcēs agitant!'

Pompēiānī, postquam nūntiōs audivērunt, ad amphitheātrum quam celerrimē contendērunt. Nūcerīnī quoque ad amphitheātrum festināvērunt. omnēs vehementer clāmābant. Pompēiānī et Nūcerīnī, postquam amphitheātrum intrāvērunt, tacuērunt. prīmam pugnam exspectābant.

The amphitheatre at Pompeii. Notice one of the staircases that led up to the top seats. The public sports ground is behind the trees on the right. On performance days, the open space would have been full of stalls selling refreshments and souvenirs.



senātor Rōmānus a Roman senator

magnificā magnificent

Nūcerīnī the people of Nuceria

5 inimīcī enemies

saepe often

turbulētī rowdy, disorderly

spectāculum show, spectacle

splendidum splendid

10 ēdidit presented

diem nātālem birthday

celebrābat was celebrating

vēnerunt came

cīvēs citizens

15 complēbant were filling

nūntiābant were announcing

vīgintī twenty

rētiārī net-fighters

murmillōnēs heavily armed

gladiators

bēstiārī beast-fighters

bēstiās beasts

ferōcēs fierce, ferocious

quam celerrimē as quickly as

possible

vehementer loudly, violently

tacuērunt fell silent



A retiarius with his trident, net and protection for his right arm and neck.

in arēnā

duo rētiariī et duo murmillōnēs arēnam intrāvērunt. postquam gladiātōrēs spectātōrēs salūtāvērunt, tuba sonuit. tum gladiātōrēs pugnam commīsērunt. murmillōnēs Pompēiānōs valdē dēlectābant, quod saepe victōrēs erant. Pompēiānī igitur murmillōnēs incitābant. sed rētiariī, quod erant expeditī, murmillōnēs facile ēvitāvērunt.

‘rētiariī nōn pugnant! rētiariī sunt ignāvī!’ clāmāvērunt Pompēiānī. Nūcerinī tamen respondērunt, ‘rētiariī sunt callidī! rētiariī murmillōnēs dēcipiunt!’

murmillōnēs rētiariōs frūstrā ad pugnam prōvocāvērunt. tum murmillō clāmāvit, ‘ūnus murmillō facile duōs rētiariōs superat.’

Pompēiānī plausērunt. tum murmillō rētiariōs statim petīvit. murmillō et rētiariī ferōciter pugnavērunt. rētiariī tandem murmillōnem graviter vulnerāvērunt. tum rētiariī alterum murmillōnem petīvērunt. hic murmillō fortiter pugnavit, sed rētiariī eum quoque superāvērunt.

Pompēiānī, quod irātī erant, murmillōnēs vituperābant; missiōnem tamen postulābant, quod murmillōnēs fortēs erant. Nūcerinī mortem postulābant. omnēs spectātōrēs tacēbant, et Rēgulū intentē spectābant. Rēgulus, quod Nūcerinī mortem postulābant, pollicem vertit. Pompēiānī erant irātī, et vehementer clāmābant. rētiariī tamen, postquam Rēgulus signum dedit, murmillōnēs interfēcērunt.

tuba *trumpet*
sonuit *sounded*
pugnam commīsērunt *began the fight*

5 victōrēs *victors, winners*
expeditī *lightly armed*
ēvitāvērunt *avoided*
ignāvī *cowardly*
callidī *clever, cunning*

10 dēcipiunt *are deceiving, are fooling*

frūstrā *in vain*
prōvocāvērunt *challenged*
ūnus *one*

15 graviter *seriously*
vulnerāvērunt *wounded*
alterum *the second, the other*
hic *this*

fortiter *bravely*
20 missiōnem *release*
mortem *death*
pollicem vertit *turned his thumb up*

dedit *gave*
interfēcērunt *killed*

About the language 1

- 1 From Stage 2 onwards, you have met sentences like these:

amīcus puellam salūtat.	<i>The friend greets the girl.</i>
dominus servum vituperābat.	<i>The master was cursing the slave.</i>
nautae mercātōrem laudāvērunt.	<i>The sailors praised the merchant.</i>

In each of these examples, the person who has something done to him or her is indicated in Latin by the **accusative singular**.

- 2 In Stage 8, you have met sentences like these:

amīcus puellās salūtat.	<i>The friend greets the girls.</i>
dominus servōs vituperābat.	<i>The master was cursing the slaves.</i>
nautae mercātōrēs laudāvērunt.	<i>The sailors praised the merchants.</i>

In these examples, the persons who have something done to them are indicated in Latin by the **accusative plural**.

- 3 You have now met the following cases:

SINGULAR			
<i>nominative</i>	puella	servus	mercātor
<i>accusative</i>	puellam	servum	mercātōrem
PLURAL			
<i>nominative</i>	puellae	servī	mercātōrēs
<i>accusative</i>	puellās	servōs	mercātōrēs

- 4 Further examples:

- a agricola gladiātōrem laudāvit. agricola gladiātōrēs laudāvit.
- b servus agricolam interfēcit. servus agricolās interfēcit.
- c centuriō servōs laudāvit.
- d puer āctōrēs ad theātrum dūxit.
- e senex āctōrem ad forum dūxit.
- f amīcus fābulās nārrāvit.
- g amīcī ancillam salūtāvērunt.
- h agricolae nūntiōs audīvērunt.

vēnātiō

vēnātiō hunt

When you have read this story, answer the questions at the end.

postquam rētiārīi ex arēnā discessērunt, tuba iterum sonuit. subitō multī cervī arēnam intrāvērunt. cervī per tōtam arēnam currēbant, quod perterritī erant. tum canēs ferōcēs per portam intrāvērunt. canēs statim cervōs perterritōs agitāvērunt et interfēcērunt. postquam canēs cervōs superāvērunt, lupī arēnam intrāvērunt. lupī, quod valdē ēsuriēbant, canēs ferōciter petīvērunt. canēs erant fortissimī, sed lupī facile canēs superāvērunt.

Nūcerīnī erant laetissimī et Rēgulū laudābant. Pompēiānī tamen nōn erant contentī, sed clāmābant, 'ubi sunt leōnēs? cūr Rēgulū leōnēs retinet?'

Rēgulū, postquam hunc clāmōrem audīvit, signum dedit. statim trēs leōnēs per portam ruērunt. tuba iterum sonuit. bēstiārīi arēnam audācissimē intrāvērunt. leōnēs tamen bēstiārīos nōn petīvērunt. leōnēs in arēnā recubuērunt. leōnēs obdormīvērunt!

tum Pompēiānī erant irātissimī, quod Rēgulū spectāculum rīdiculū ēdēbat. Pompēiānī Rēgulū et Nūcerīnōs ex amphitheatrō agitāvērunt. Nūcerīnī per viās fugiēbant, quod valdē timēbant. Pompēiānī tamen gladiōs suōs dēstrīnxērunt et multōs Nūcerīnōs interfēcērunt. ecce! sanguis nōn in arēnā sed per viās fluēbat.

iterum again
cervī deer

ēsuriēbant were hungry
fortissimī very brave

retinet is holding back
hunc this

trēs three

audācissimē very boldly
recubuērunt lay down

obdormīvērunt went to sleep

irātissimī very angry

rīdiculū ridiculous, silly

ēdēbat was presenting

fugiēbant began to run away,
began to flee

suōs their

dēstrīnxērunt drew

Questions

Marks

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1 | postquam ... intrāvērunt (lines 1–2). What happened after the retiarii left the arena? | 2 |
| 2 | In lines 4–5, how did the deer feel and what happened to them? | 1 + 2 |
| 3 | In lines 6–8, why did the wolves chase the dogs? How did the chase end? | 2 |
| 4 | In lines 9–10, what were the different feelings of the Nucerians and Pompeians? | 2 |
| 5 | Why were the Pompeians feeling like this? | 1 |
| 6 | Rēgulū ... signum dedit (line 12). What happened next? | 2 |
| 7 | When the beast-fighters entered the arena in lines 13–14, what would you have expected to happen? What went wrong? | 2 + 1 |
| 8 | Why were the Pompeians angry and what did they do? | 2 |
| 9 | Pompēiānī ... interfēcērunt (lines 19–20). What made the riot so serious? | 1 |
| 10 | Read the last sentence. Why do you think ecce! is put in front of it? | 2 |

TOTAL 20



pāstor et leō

ōlim pāstor in silvā ambulābat. subitō pāstor leōnem cōspexit.
leō tamen pāstōrem nōn agitāvit. leō lacrimābat! pāstor,
postquam leōnem cōspexit, erat attonitus et rogāvit,

‘cūr lacrimās, leō? cūr mē nōn agitās? cūr mē nōn cōsūmis?’

leō trīstis pedem ostendit. pāstor spīnam in pede cōspexit,
tum clāmāvit,

‘ego spīnam videō! spīnam ingentem videō! nunc intellegō!
tū lacrimās, quod pēs dolet.’

pāstor, quod benignus et fortis erat, ad leōnem cautē vēnit et
spīnam inspexit. leō fremuit, quod ignāvus erat.

‘leō!’ exclāmāvit pāstor, ‘ego perterritus sum, quod tū fremis.
sed tē adiuvō. ecce! spīna!’

postquam hoc dīxit, pāstor spīnam quam celerrimē extrāxit.
leō ignāvus iterum fremuit et ē silvā festināvit.

posteā, Rōmānī hunc pāstōrem comprehendērunt, quod
Christiānus erat, et eum ad arēnam dūxērunt. postquam arēnam
intrāvit, pāstor spectātōrēs vīdit et valdē timēbat. tum pāstor
bēstiās vīdit et clāmāvit, ‘nunc mortuus sum! videō leōnēs et
lupōs. ēheu!’

tum ingēns leō ad eum ruit. leō, postquam pāstōrem olfēcit,
nōn eum cōsūmpsit sed lambēbat! pāstor attonitus leōnem
agnōvit et dīxit,

‘tē agnōscō! tū es leō trīstis! spīna erat in pede tuō.’

leō iterum fremuit, et pāstōrem ex arēnā ad salūtem dūxit.

attonitus *astonished*

- 5 trīstis *sad*
pedem *foot, paw*
ostendit *showed*
spīnam *thorn*
dolet *hurts*
- 10 benignus *kind*
fremuit *roared*
exclāmāvit *shouted*
adiuvō *help*
hoc *this*
- 15 extrāxit *pulled out*
posteā *afterwards*
comprehendērunt *arrested*
Christiānus *Christian*
- 20 olfēcit *smelled, sniffed*
lambēbat *began to lick*
agnōvit *recognised*
- ad salūtem *to safety*

About the language 2

1 Study the following pairs of sentences:

Pompēiānī erant irātī.
The Pompeians were angry.

Pompēiānī erant **irātissimī**.
The Pompeians were very angry.

gladiātor est nōtus.
The gladiator is famous.

gladiātor est **nōtissimus**.
The gladiator is very famous.

māter erat laeta.
The mother was happy.

māter erat **laetissima**.
The mother was very happy.

The words in **bold type** are known as **superlatives**. Notice how they are translated in the examples above.

2 Further examples:

- a mercātor est trīstis. senex est trīstissimus.
- b canis erat ferōx. leō erat ferōcissimus.
- c amīcus fābulam longissimam nārrāvit.
- d murmillōnēs erant fortēs, sed rētiārī erant fortissimī.



A duel reaches its climax in this painting from a tomb at Pompeii.

Practising the language

- 1 Complete each sentence with the right word from the box.
Then translate the sentence.

- a multās villās habeō.
b ego servōs
c tū gladiātōrēs
d ego salūtō.
e ancillās laudās.
f tū agitās.

ego	leōnēs
tū	vēndō
amīcōs	spectās

- 2 Complete each sentence with the right form of the verb from the brackets.
Then translate the sentence.

- a tū es vērālicius; tū servōs in forō (vēndō, vēndis, vēndit)
b ego sum gladiātor; ego in arēnā (pugnō, pugnās, pugnat)
c Fēlix est libertus; Fēlix cum Caeciliō (cēnō, cēnās, cēnat)
d ego multōs spectātōrēs in amphitheātrō (videō, vidēs, videt)
e tū in villā magnificā (habitō, habitās, habitat)
f Rēgulus hodiē diem nātalem (celebrō, celebrās, celebrat)
g tū saepe ad amphitheātrum (veniō, venīs, venit)
h ego rem (intellegō, intellegis, intellegit)



Gladiator fights were show business, and were performed to the sound of trumpet and organ.



Gladiatorial shows

Among the most popular entertainments in all parts of the Roman world were shows in which gladiators fought each other. These contests were usually held in an amphitheatre. This was a large oval building, without a roof, in which rising tiers of seats surrounded an arena. Canvas awnings, supported by ropes and pulleys, were spread over part of the seating area to give shelter from the sun. The amphitheatre at Pompeii was large enough to contain the whole population as well as many visitors from nearby towns. Spectators paid no admission fee, as the shows were given by wealthy individuals at their own expense.

Among the many advertisements for gladiatorial shows that are to be seen painted on the walls of buildings is this one:

Twenty pairs of gladiators, given by Lucretius Satrius Valens, priest of Nero, and ten pairs of gladiators provided by his son will fight at Pompeii from 8 to 12 April. There will also be an animal hunt. Awnings will be provided.

Soon after dawn on the day of a show, the spectators would begin to take their places. A trumpet blared and priests came out to perform the religious ceremony with which the games began. Then the gladiators entered in procession, paraded round the arena and saluted the sponsor of the show. The gladiators were then paired off to fight each other and the contests began.

The inside of the Pompeii amphitheatre as it is today, looking north-west towards Vesuvius. Compare the drawing on page 111. The building held about 20,000 people and the number of seats was being increased when the city was destroyed.



Bird's-eye view of the amphitheatre showing the awning.

The gladiators were slaves, condemned criminals, prisoners of war or free volunteers; they lived and trained in a 'school' or barracks under the supervision of a professional trainer.

Part of the programme of one particular show, together with details of the results, reads as follows:

A Thracian versus a Murmillo

Won: Pugnax from Nero's school: 3 times a winner

Died: Murranus from Nero's school: 3 times a winner

A Heavily-armed Gladiator versus a Thracian

Won: Cycinus from the school of Julius: 8 times a winner

Allowed to live: Atticus from the school of Julius:

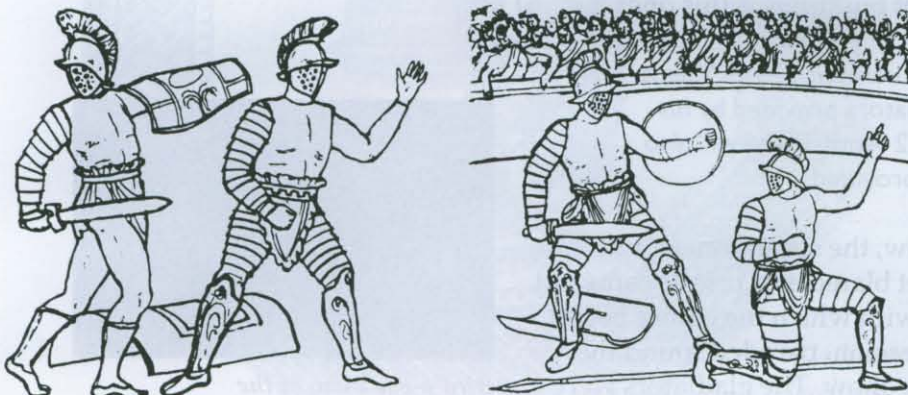
14 times a winner

Chariot Fighters

Won: Scylax from the school of Julius: 26 times a winner

Allowed to live: Publius Ostorius: 51 times a winner

The fight ended with the death or surrender of one of the gladiators. The illustrations below, based on a relief from the tomb of a wealthy Pompeian, show the defeated gladiator appealing to the spectators; the victor stands by ready to kill him if they decide that he deserves to die. Notice the arm raised in appeal. The spectators indicated their wishes by turning their thumbs up or down: probably turning the thumb up towards the chest meant 'kill him', while turning it down meant 'let him live'. The final decision for death or mercy was made by the sponsor of the show. It was not unusual for the life of the loser to be spared, especially if he were a well-known gladiator with a good number of victories to his credit. The most successful gladiators were great favourites with the crowd and received gifts of money from their admirers. One popular Pompeian



Gladiators' armour

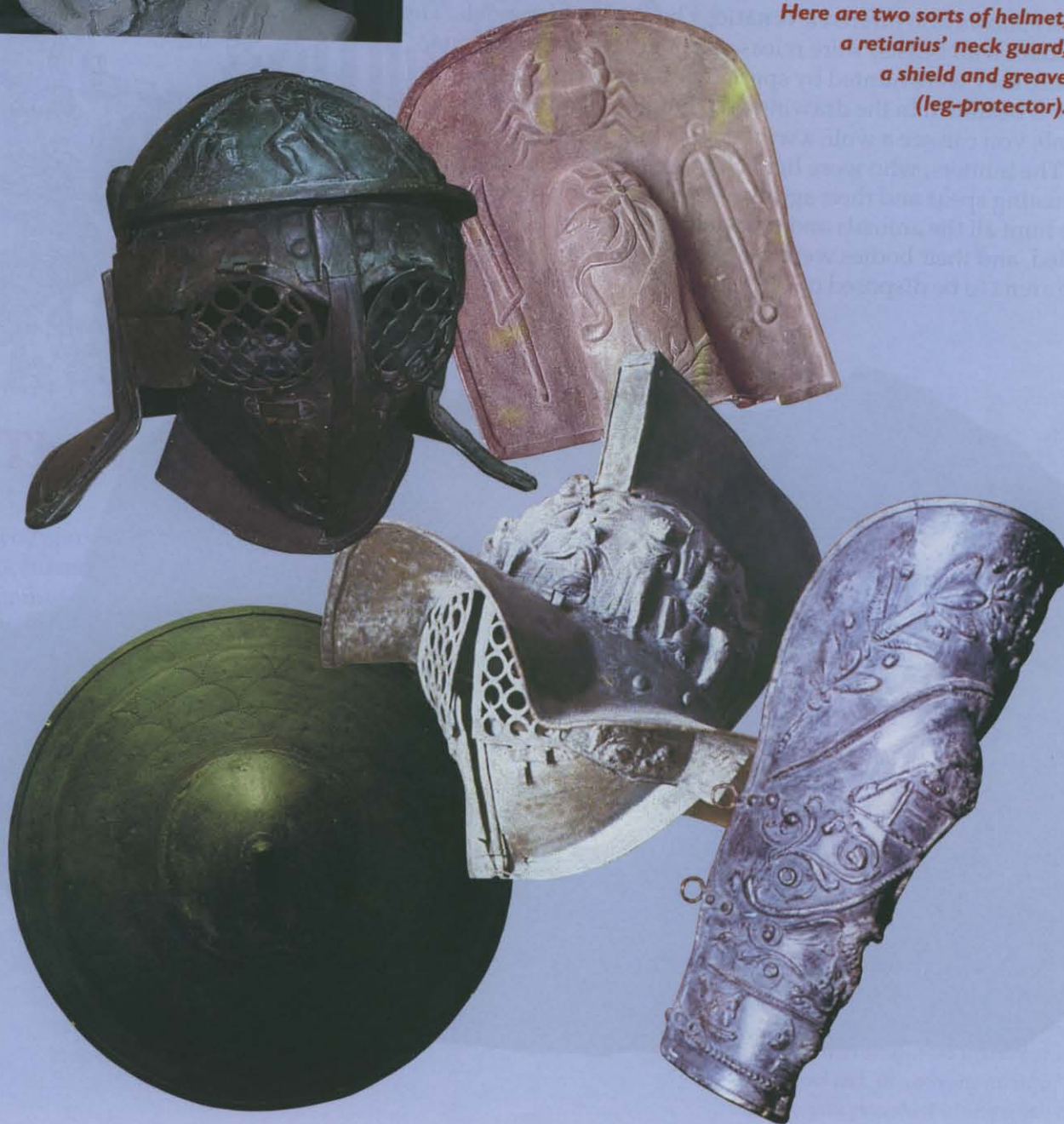
Gladiators were not all armed in the same way. Some, who were known as Samnites, carried an oblong shield and a short sword; others, known as Thracians, had a round shield and a curved sword or dagger. Another type of gladiator armed with sword and shield wore a helmet with a crest shaped like a fish; the Greek name for the fish was 'mormillos' and the gladiator was known as a murmillō. The murmillones were often matched against the rētiārīi who were armed with rētia (nets) and three-pronged tridents.

Other types of gladiator fought with spears, on horseback, or from chariots. Occasionally women gladiators were used, bringing additional variety to the show.



A Thracian with a round shield.

A great deal of gladiators' armour was discovered at Pompeii, with traces of fabrics embroidered with gold thread. The performers must have looked spectacular, like modern circus artists – except for the bloodshed. Here are two sorts of helmet, a retiarius' neck guard, a shield and greave (leg-protector).



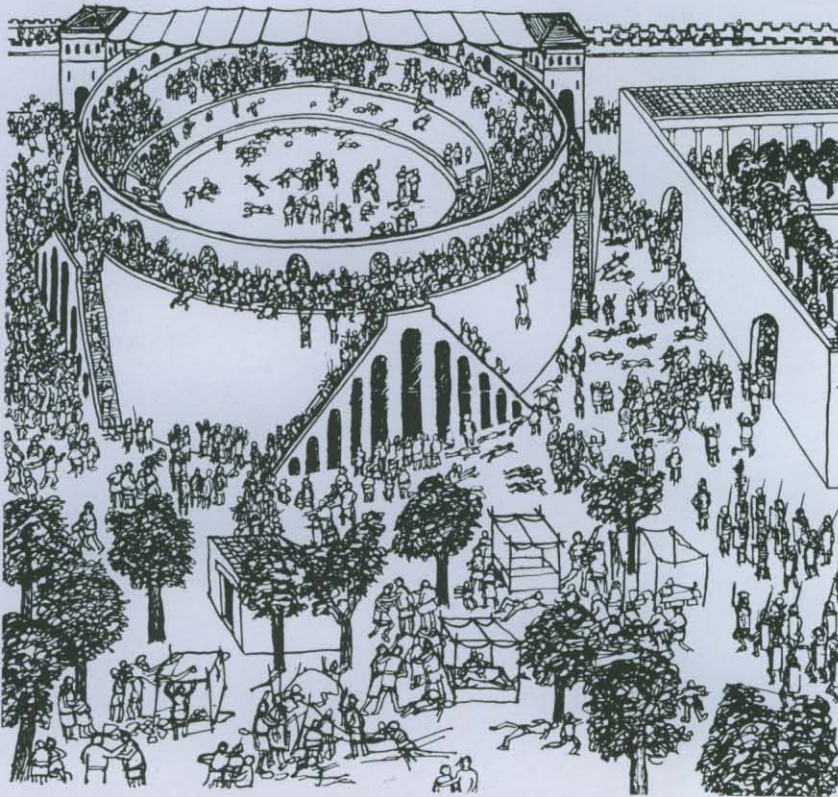
gladiator was described as **suspīrium puellārum**: ‘the girls’ heart-throb’. Eventually, if a gladiator survived long enough or showed great skill and courage, he would be awarded the wooden sword. This was a high honour and meant he would not have to fight again.

Animal hunts

Many shows also offered a **vēnātiō**, a hunt of wild animals. The **bēstiae** (wild beasts) were released from cages into the arena, where they were hunted by specially trained beast-fighters called **bēstiārii**. In the drawing on the right, taken from the same tomb, you can see a wolf, a wild boar, a bull, hares and a lion.

The hunters, who wore light clothing, relied only upon a thrusting spear and their agility to avoid injury. By the end of the hunt all the animals and occasionally a few hunters had been killed, and their bodies were dragged out from the sandy floor of the arena to be disposed of.





The riot at Pompeii

The story told in this Stage is based on an actual event which occurred in AD 59. In addition to the evidence given in the wall-painting above, the event is also described by the Roman historian Tacitus in these words:

About this time, a slight incident led to a serious outburst of rioting between the people of Pompeii and Nuceria. It occurred at a show of gladiators, sponsored by Livineius Regulus. While hurling insults at each other, in the usual manner of country people, they suddenly began to throw stones as well. Finally, they drew swords and attacked each other. The men of Pompeii won the fight. As a result, most of the families of Nuceria lost a father or a son. Many of the wounded were taken to Rome, where the Emperor Nero requested the Senate to hold an inquiry. After the inquiry, the Senate forbade the Pompeians to hold such shows for ten years. Livineius and others who had encouraged the riot were sent into exile.



This drawing of a gladiator with the palm of victory was scratched on a wall, with a message that may refer to the riot and its aftermath: 'Campanians, in your moment of victory you perished along with the Nuceriensians'.

Vocabulary checklist 8

agitat	<i>chases, hunts</i>
cōnsūmit	<i>eats</i>
dūcit	<i>leads, takes</i>
eum	<i>him</i>
facile	<i>easily</i>
ferōx	<i>fierce</i>
gladius	<i>sword</i>
hic	<i>this</i>
ignāvus	<i>cowardly</i>
nūntius	<i>messenger</i>
pēs	<i>foot</i>
porta	<i>gate</i>
postulat	<i>demands</i>
puer	<i>boy</i>
pugnat	<i>fights</i>
saepe	<i>often</i>
sanguis	<i>blood</i>
silva	<i>wood</i>
spectāculum	<i>show, spectacle</i>
statim	<i>at once</i>
tōtus	<i>whole</i>



*A retiarius who lost his fight.
The symbol beside his trident is
θ (theta), the first letter of the
Greek word for death (thanatos).*