

VII Bread and circuses

Motivation task: which of these games or sports aren't Roman?

 <p>1 A ball.</p>	 <p>2. Medieval knights.</p>	 <p>3. Four-horse chariot</p>	 <p>4. Dice</p>
 <p>5. Knucklebones.</p>	 <p>6. Theatre mask.</p>	 <p>7. A board game.</p>	 <p>8. A bullfight.</p>

In pairs organise your findings. Use the chart below and the substitution table.

Roman games	Other periods games

❖ Write down 6 true sentences in your notebook.

all/s Medieval knights Four-horse chariots Dice Knucklebones	are	X	Roman	game/s
A bullfight A board game Theatre mask	aren't			entertainment/s
	is	a		sport/s
	isn't			

I Free time

There were plenty of fun activities in Roman times similar to the ones we enjoy today. Board games with counters and dice were very common. Adults and children also enjoyed knucklebones, which needed quick fingers.

In the cities Romans enjoyed several forms of entertainment such as the theatre, the circus, the amphitheatre and baths. There was always something going on like plays in the theatre, chariot races in the circus and gladiator fights in the amphitheatres.

Roman people used to go to the theatre to watch plays or listen to music. They were so well designed that the audience could hear the actors even in the back row. Plays were performed in the open air. There were theatres in every city. Women were not allowed to act, so the male actors often wore **masks**.

We still use many plays written by Roman authors. They used to write comedies that still amuse us today.



HISTORICAL SOURCES

A historical source is something that tells us about History.

A Primary source is something that originates from the past, for example an Ancient Roman coin.

A Secondary source is something that has been made recently but describes the past, for example a copy of an Ancient Roman coin.

 <p>9. Tarraco's theatre</p>	 <p>10. Caldes de Montbui Baths (Barcelona)</p>	 <p>11. Tarraco's Circus model.</p>	 <p>12. Baths plan.</p>
	 <p>13. Colosseum (Rome).</p>	 <p>14. Tarraco circus remains.</p>	

1. Are pictures number 9 to 14 primary or secondary sources?

- a. Tarraco's theatre is a _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

II The Colosseum was a huge oval arena¹ in the city of Rome. The Colosseum could accommodate 50,000 people, so it was the largest Roman amphitheatre. Some people didn't have a seat in the Colosseum. Standing, the Colosseum could hold up to 70,000 spectators! This is where Romans gathered to watch fierce fights between **gladiators** and battles between men and wild animals. Gladiators were usually trained slaves, criminals and prisoners of war. Sometimes, they flooded the Colosseum with water to hold mock sea-battles (*naumachiae*).

The Romans were skilled builders. They constructed buildings to last. The Colosseum was made of concrete and stone, as were most amphitheatres. It was built in the early days of the Roman Empire in around 70 AD. It was designed to host huge spectacles. Everybody could go to the events in the Colosseum and admission was free.

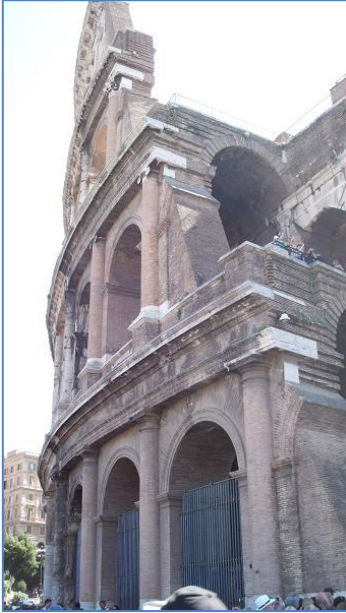
The **Coliseum** (Colosseum) was built during the reign of Emperor Vespasian c. 72 AD. The popular name of Coliseum came about because it was situated next to a colossal statue of Nero. The original name of this construction was the **Amphitheatrum Flavium**. The design was oval or elliptical and the amphitheatre itself is a Roman, not Greek, contribution.

Over 64 metres high with eighty entrances, the Coliseum was built like two Greek Theatres joined to form an oval shaped arena surrounded by rows of seats. The huge structure was supported by a system of arches and vaults. Below the arena a maze of passages led to lots of rooms. An awning (*velarium*) protected the spectators from sun and rain.

¹ **Arena:** it comes from the Latin word "sand," which was placed on the floor to soak up spilled blood.

1. Answer the following Wh-questions:

- a) Where did the gladiators fight? *They fought in the* _____
- b) Who were the gladiators? *They* _____
- c) When was the Colosseum built? *It* _____ *built in* _____
- d) Who built the Coliseum? _____
- e) Why do we call the Amphitheatre Flavium 'Colosseum or Coliseum'? _____
- f) How many spectators could the Colosseum hold? _____



15. 16. Colosseum in Rome.

2. You are a sports journalist trying to find out how Roman people were amused by violent sports.

- a) Describe the different 'blood sports' enjoyed by the Romans.
- b) Choose whether any modern sports can be compared with these sports.

* write a report a paragraph long on each of these different topics.

There were around 20 kinds of gladiators in Rome. Look at the examples:

- **Secutor:** Fought with a helmet adorned by a fish crest, a shield, and a sword. He usually fought a retiarius.
- **Retiarius:** He was lightly armed. A lightly armed gladiator with a net, brandishing either a trident or a dagger.
- **Samnite:** He was heavily armed. He used a sword, a helmet, a shield and **greaves** (a piece of armour for the legs).
- **Thracian:** Combated with a curved sword and a round shield.

3. Match the words on the left with the clues on the right

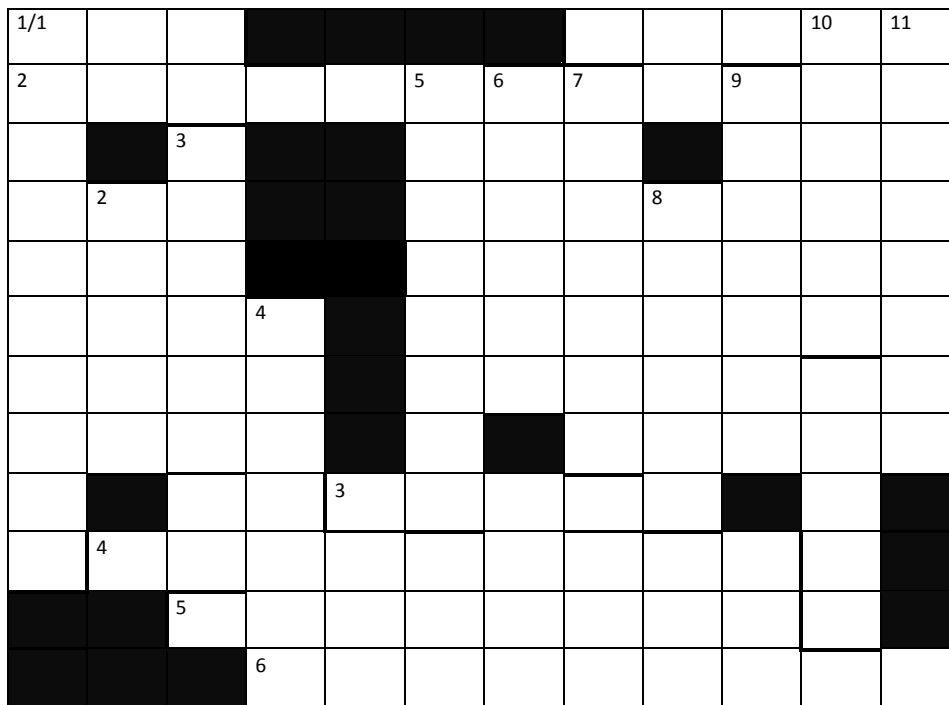
1. THRACIAN ___a) gladiator that fought with a fish shaped helmet, a shield and a sword.
2. SECUTOR ___b) gladiator that fought with a curved sword and a shield.
3. SAMNITE ___c) gladiator that carried a net and a trident or a dagger.
4. RETIARIUS ___d) gladiator armed with a sword, a helmet, a shield and greaves.

❖ Find out more about gladiators in <http://www.murphsplace.com/gladiator/glads.html>

❖ Dress a gladiator in <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/interactive/games/gladiator/index.shtml>

❖ Visit the Colosseum in http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/launch_ani_colosseum.shtml

4. Gladiator's crossword



Across

1. The web retiarius used to fight. An arched roof used in Roman period (backwards).
2. The building where people used to watch gladiators fight.
3. Building material used in Roman times (The other way round).
4. A lightly armed gladiator with a net, brandishing either a trident or a dagger.
5. The name of an important amphitheatre in Rome.
6. A slave or war prisoner trained to fight in the arena (backwards).

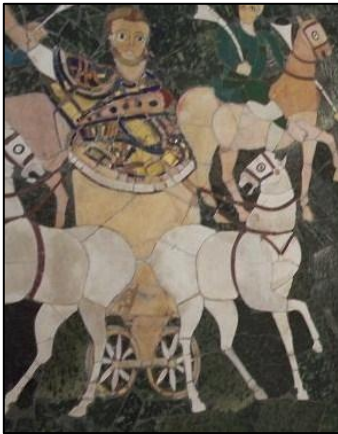
Down

1. The Latin name of mock naval battles in the amphitheatre.
2. A weapon to fight (upside down).
3. Building material created by Romans.
4. A Gladiator that used a special helmet, a shield and a sword and fought a retiarius.
5. A gladiator that combated with a curved sword and round shield.
6. A special head covering for soldiers, gladiators etc.
7. A heavily armed gladiator (upside down).
8. A curved protector tool for gladiators and soldiers (upside down).
9. A weapon shaped like a fork.
10. A curved structure as an opening or support for bridges, roofs, etc. The central part of an amphitheatre where contest take place.
11. A sun or rain protector for the crowds in the amphitheatre (use the Latin word).

III Circus Maximus

Some Romans liked a day at the races. In early Roman times, young **patricians** used to race their chariots around Rome. So, in the 6th century BC (about 2,500 years ago), they built the Circus Maximus in the city of Rome. Horses pulled chariots round a U shaped race-track, called 'circus' (circle) in Latin. It was especially designed to race chariots. Women could attend the races and they sat with the men. The original Circus Maximus was built out of wood but it burnt down twice. During the Roman Empire, the Circus Maximus was rebuilt using marble and concrete.

There were other circuses in the Roman Empire. The Romans built racetracks or circuses all over the Empire, but the Circus Maximus was the most famous one. It held about 250.000 people: admission was free too! So even poor people could go to the races every day!



16 and 17. Two horse chariots. Mosaic (left) and reconstruction (right).

1. Answer the following Wh-questions:

- When was the Circus Maximus built? _____
- Where did the chariots race? _____
- How many horses carried a chariot in Roman times? _____
- How many spectators could the Circus Maximus hold? _____
- What does circus mean in Latin? _____

2. Fill in the gaps using the word bank

IV The baths

Whilst there were private baths, public baths became a part of everyday life. Romans bathed once a week. In the baths people could have a massage too. Bath houses were big, and pools, exercise grounds, gymnastic apparatus, courts for games, libraries, reading and conference rooms were also found there. Baths were a meeting point for friends to socialise or for business. In the 3rd century AD Caracalla built a new public bath in Rome: this is the biggest public bath in the Roman times.

Baths also had a dressing room – called an apodyterium. People kept their clothes in this room. The bather went to different rooms to have a bath. The first room was the *tepidarium*, where the water was warm. The next room was the *caldarium* or hot room, where the water was hot. The person then entered a room where they were rubbed with oil. The dirt or sweat was scraped off with a **strigil**² and after this; the bather had a cold bath in the *frigidarium*, the cold room.

Baths had different and sophisticated heating methods to keep the water and the rooms warm. The most famous Roman baths in Catalonia are in Caldes de Malavella (Barcelona).

1. Fill in the blanks with the words from the word bank.

The two most well preserved _____ (1) – thermae- of ancient Rome are the baths of _____ (2) and Caracalla. Diocletian's baths cover an enormous 32 acres. The baths of Caracalla cover 27 _____ (3). In the centre of the Roman baths, next to the dressing room, the _____ (4), could be found, an extremely large, vaulted and mildly heated hall. This could be found surrounded on one side by the _____ (5), a large, chilled swimming pool about 200 feet by 100 feet, and on the other side by the _____ (6), an area for hot bathing warmed by subterranean steam.

Hot air and steam baths had been known to the Greeks as early as the 5th _____ (7) BC and have been found in Italy dating back to the 3rd century BC. By the 1st century BC, hypocaust heating allowed for the creation of hot/cold rooms and plunge baths. Bathing quickly became a communal activity. The term _____ (8) was first applied to the baths built by Agrippa in the last 1st century BC. Emperors later built gradually bigger baths, and the thermae became an Ancient Roman tradition.

Not only were the baths meant for bathing, but also, for social gathering. In addition to the bathing areas, gardens, promenades, _____ (9), rooms for massage, libraries, and museums could be found.

² A **strigil** was a small, curved, metal tool used in ancient Greece and Rome to scrape dirt and sweat from the body

WORD BANK

baths calidarium Diocletian acres century tepidarium frigidarium thermae gymnasiums

2. Circle the odd one out and give the reason why.

a) A Caracalla B Diocletian C Agrippa D Julius Caesar

I circled because

b) A tepidarium B frigidarium C calidarium D thermae

c) A chariot's race B gymnasium D library D museum

d) A thermae B circus C amphitheatre D skating-rink

e) A bathing B school C leisure D socialising

3. List the different ways the Roman used water.**4. Which do you think was most important?****5. Complete the chart**

	Positive	Comparative	Superlative	meaning	Spanish
1	warm	warmer	the warmest		
2	hot				
3	cold				
4	light				
5	quick				
6	big				
7	heavy				
8	chilly				
9	mild				
10	large				
11	huge				
12	dirty				
13	early				

14	fierce				
15	poor				
16	new				
17	much				

6. Describe a visit to a public bath. You should mention:

2. How water was brought into the town.
3. The steps you go through in the baths.
4. The kind of people you would meet there.
5. Why a visit to the baths was so popular.

7. Enjoy some activities about Roman leisure in the following addresses

A day at the baths <http://www.romanbaths.co.uk/htmlContent/game.htm>

A day at the baths: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostempire/roman/day.html>

Build a bath: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostempire/roman/builds.html>

Bath tour: http://www.exeter.gov.uk/timetrail/02_romanfortress/bath_house.htm

Games <http://ablemedia.com/ctcweb/showcase/boardgames.html>

8. Baths of Caracalla (3rd Century AD.)



Baths of Caracalla legend

1. Entrance
2. Public toilets
3. Palaestra (fitness center)
4. Apodyterium (changing room)
5. Tepidarium (removal of dirt and sweat)
6. Caldarium (hottest room of a Roman bath)
7. Frigidarium (dip into a cold water bath)

8. Performance center (for entertainment and relaxation)
9. Exposition of art
10. Food and beverage

The Baths of Caracalla are one of the biggest Roman baths ever built. They were built by the emperor Caracalla in the 3th century AD.

The public baths or thermae were not only a place to wash but also a way to spend free time. There were lots of baths in Rome. There were public and private baths. Baths had several uses and were used as a meeting point. There was a bar, a restaurant, a palaestra, and also a meeting room, where an actor, a musician, or a philosopher could make a lecture or other entertainments.

Romans finished work by noon, so they were more likely to go to the baths in the afternoon. But some could bathe in the morning or late in the evening when some baths were lit by torch.

The Baths of Caracalla were enormous and covered 27 acres. They could accommodate up to 1,600 people. There wasn't any limit of age and children and old people and both men and women could go there. Even slaves could bathe. They often bathed naked and together.

There were also masseurs and food stalls. Baths were noisy and lively places. After changing in the apodyterium and exercising in the palaestra the people entered into the tepidarium where the water was warm this opened the body pores. Then they went to the caldarium, the hottest room. This was a steamy room. The last stop was the frigidarium where the water was cold and this closed the skin pores. Once they had taken care of the body they could focus on the mind: for example they could listen a poet or a philosopher.

a) A day at the baths:

- 1) What number is the entrance? _____
- 2) Where are the toilets? _____
- 3) What can you do in the palaestra? _____
- 4) What can you do in the apodyterium? _____
- 5) What can you do in the tepidarium? _____
- 6) What can you do in the caldarium? _____
- 7) What can you do in the frigidarium? _____
- 8) What can you do in the performance center? _____
- 9) Where can you visit an exposition of art? _____
- 10) Where can people have food and beverage? _____

b) Solve the following anagrams which appear in the text.

- a) Real pasta → _____
- b) A beer gave → _____
- c) Um, I dig a friar! → _____
- d) A lucid Maria → _____
- e) Today impure → _____
- f) Tame her → _____