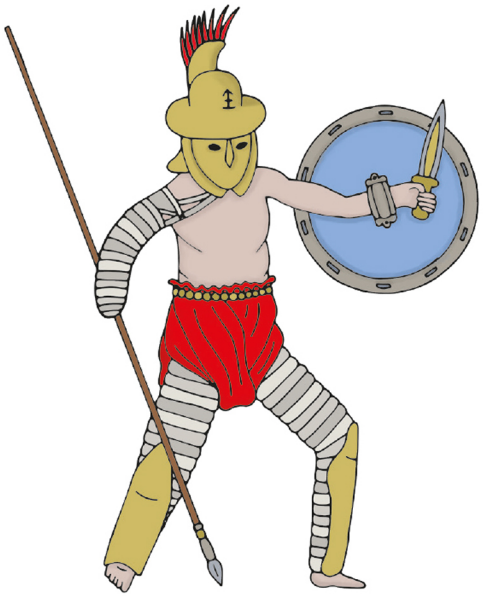
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Hoplomachus

Plural: hoplomachi

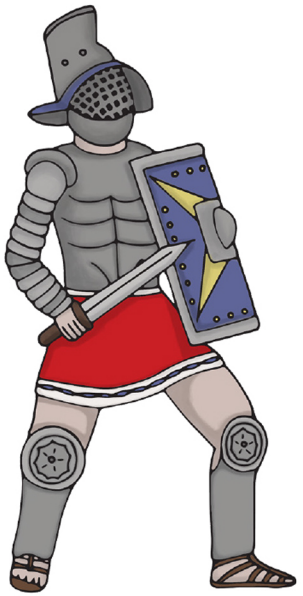
A hoplomachus gladiator fought murmillo and thraex gladiators. Hoplomachi wore a bronze helmet, protective armour on the right arm (a manica) and sturdy padding from the ankles to the thighs. They were armed with a small, round shield (a hoplon) and fought with a spear and a short sword.



Murmillo

Plural: murmillones

A murmillo gladiator fought thraex and hoplomachus gladiators. Murmillones wore extremely heavy armour. These gladiators were usually short, strong men who could skilfully use a shield and a sword. Murmillones also attacked their enemies by kicking them.



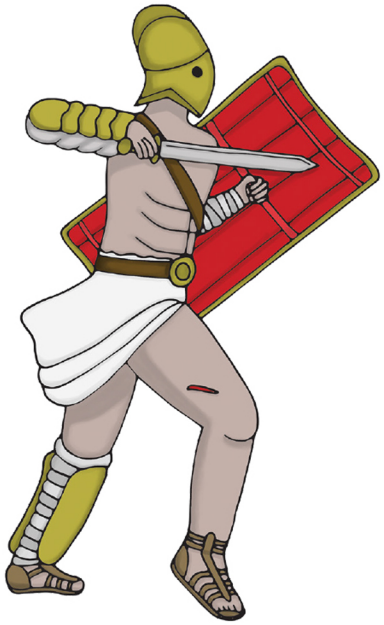
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Secutor

Plural: secutores

A secutor gladiator fought retiarius gladiators. Secutores were armed with a sword or a dagger called a pugio. Secutores usually wore a loincloth, a protective helmet, and armour on their right arm (a manica) and on their left leg (an ocrea). They usually fought with a curved, rectangular shield (a scutum).



Thraex

Plural: thracians

A thraex gladiator fought hoplomachus and murmillo gladiators. Thracians were armed with a small, rectangular shield and a short sword with a curved blade (a sica). They wore a loincloth, a helmet with a plume and protective armour on their sword-holding arm.



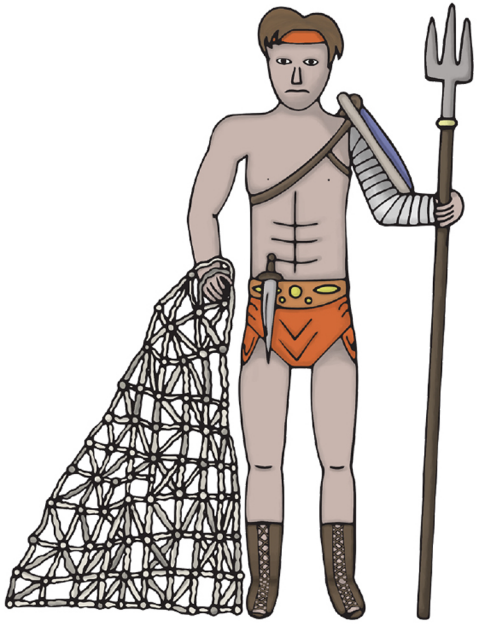
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Retiarius

Plural: retiarii

A retiarius gladiator fought secutor gladiators. Retiarii were armed with a net, a three-pointed trident and dagger called a pugio. They often wore no more than a loincloth, secured by a wide belt. Retiarii did not wear any protective clothing on their heads or feet.



Venator

Plural: venatores

Strictly speaking, a venator was not a gladiator. Venatores hunted wild animals and entertained packed arenas and amphitheatres by performing brave tricks, such as putting an arm into a lion's mouth!



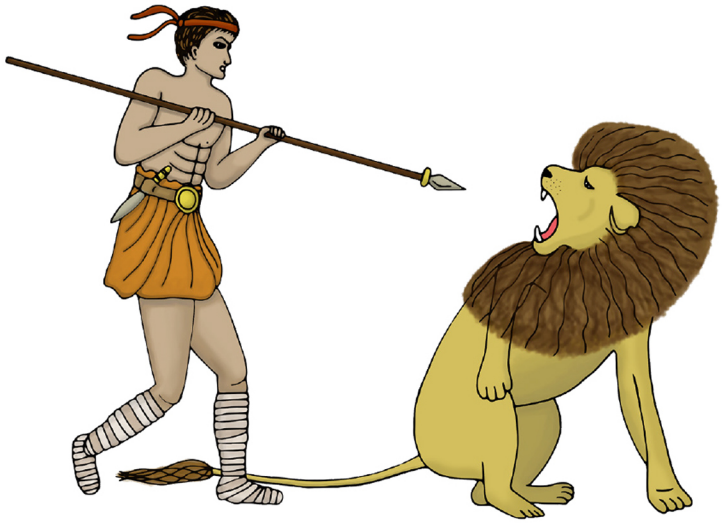
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Bestiarius

Plural: bestiarii

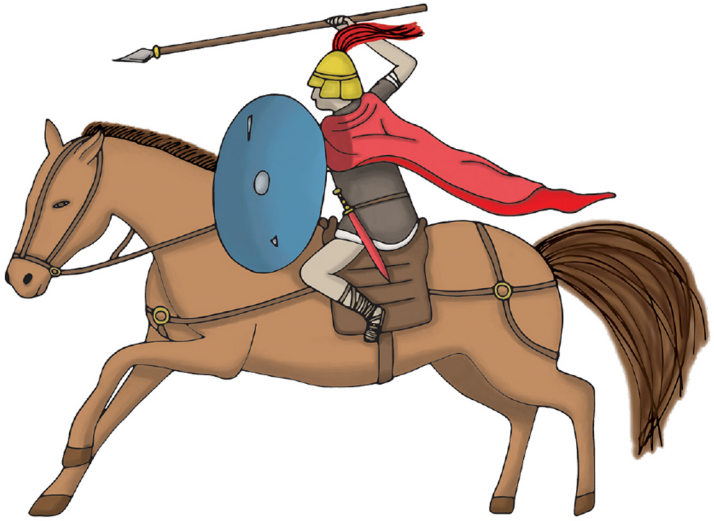
A bestiarius gladiator fought wild animals such as lions, tigers and leopards. The gladiator was armed with a spear, a knife or a whip. Bestiarii who had committed serious crimes were forced to fight the animals naked and without any weapons.



Eques

Plural: equites

An eques gladiator fought other equites. An eques entered the arena on horseback and the battle started when the opponents threw short, light spears at each other. They would dismount from the horse and continue to fight using a short sword called a gladius.



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