



Gladiator School

Preparation

Use chairs or benches etc to create an 'arena' for the gladiators to practice in. Place the Gladiator School cards face down.

Information to tell the children

1. The pictures are taken from graffiti on buildings at Pompeii.
2. The graffiti tells us that not every losing gladiator died – some lived to fight again and again...
3. Special sign writers carved graffiti posters (*edicta*) to advertise the shows, outlining which Gladiators would be fighting and any special facilities that would be provided for the audience

Instructions for the children

1. Remind them that they are practicing for a show - you will be looking for the best performers to be in the show later.
2. They must pick a card, and become the Gladiator on the card.
3. They must put together (choreograph) 3 good moves and a splendid death.
4. They are to practice in SLOW MOTION with NO CONTACT!

You could finish with a final show in which only the best performers will participate.

Follow-on activity

Design a poster/graffiti to advertise an up and coming Gladiator Spectacle. You could include date (Roman numerals) and where (research the name of an amphitheatre in Pompeii etc), as well as the type of Gladiators that will be performing and why the Spectacle is being held (in honour of a new temple etc). You might also mention any special facilities that will be provided for the audience (food, sun shelters etc).