



A DAY AT THE ARENA – The Trier Amphitheatre Quiz Recommended for grade 5 and up

Welcome to the Trier Roman amphitheatre!

This quiz leads you to a very exciting spot in Roman Trier! Here in the amphitheatre there used to be a spectacle taking place that would be strange to us nowadays, which was an important aspect of Roman culture. It is your task to explore the amphitheatre and to answer and solve many questions and puzzles. We hope you will have an interesting and exciting quest. Good luck!

Thrills and leisure activities – What happened in the amphitheatre?

Go to the black information panel titled „Amphitheatre und city“ to the left of the entrance.

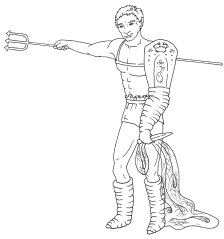
1 Look at the images and circle all of the pictures that have a connection to the amphitheatre.



2 The Romans loved good entertainment – just like we do nowadays! One of the most popular leisure activities was a visit to the amphitheatre. What events were held here?

3 An amphitheatre was an important institution of great Roman cities. Roman Trier evolves as an important place of trade and grows to become a huge metropolis. When was the amphitheatre in Trier built? Note the date.

4 More people fit into the Trier amphitheatre than they do into the contemporary Trier football stadium (ca. 10 000 seats). Find out roughly how many spectators could fit into the amphitheatre.



Now follow this signpost and climb the stairs until you reach the amphitheatre at the top.

Count the stairs on your way up:

How was the amphitheatre built?

Information panel "Construction"

5 The most famous amphitheatre of the Roman Age is still standing in Rome today: the Colosseum. It was constructed from hundreds of stone blocks. The Romans built the amphitheatre in Trier in a very different way. Explain how.



6 Note how long and how wide the amphitheatre is.

A rush of the masses in the amphitheatre

Information panel "Entrances and city walls"

7 Whenever there were games at the amphitheatre a lot of spectators would gather at once. Write down through which entrances the spectators would enter the amphitheatre or mark the entrances on the model pictured above.

Now follow the path above the spectators' gallery until you reach the information panel „Entrance from the city“.

Where was the best seat?

8 These days, the Latin translation of the entrances to the amphitheatre is funny to us. Write down the Latin and German translation.

9 The spectators sat in the seats among the many rows of the balconies which surrounded the fighting pit on both sides as they cheered for the spectacle. Stand on the spectator seating rows and think about which seats had the best view of the arena.

- 10 Preferred seats had the names of their occupants carved into the stone seats. The emperor and the city's dignitaries sat on special VIP-seats. Find out where the best VIP seats are and where the common people were seated.

Follow the signpost and follow the small path down towards the fork in the road. It doesn't matter if you go right or left. Enter the amphitheatre through one of the original public entrances.

Awaited with anticipation

Information panel "Entrances from the city"

- 11 Put yourself into the shoes of a Roman visitor who just walked through the entrance. What could have been on his mind?

You are now standing in the middle of the spectators' gallery. Search for stairs that lead you directly downwards to the fighting pit at the centre of the arena.

How did the gladiators fight?

Information panel "Gladiators"

- 12 The games in the amphitheatre took place according to a set daily routine. Describe the schedule and find out what the highlight of the games was.

- 13 During a gladiator fight men who had previously been educated and trained at a special school competed against each other. There were different types of gladiators. You can find the four most important ones on the information board. What were they called?

- 14 The fights were especially suspenseful to the public due to the different types of armour given to the opponents. Almost all gladiators protected themselves with a shield and a helmet. However, they used completely different weapons to attack. Look for weapons in the pictures and write down those that you recognize.

- 15 Create a possible battle scenario between a Murmillo (left) and a Hoplomachus (right) and describe it.



How did one become a gladiator?

Information panel
"Gladiators"

- 16 Victorious gladiators could become real celebrities in the Roman Empire, much like football players or movie stars nowadays. That is why there were also voluntary fighters who wished for glory and money. The majority, however, was forced to fight. Find out why people became gladiators.



Here you can see an article of Roman „fan merchandise“: an oil lamp picturing gladiator fighters.

- 17 In the 1990s, a little distance outside of the amphitheatre, archaeologists came upon a burial site where the victims of the games were buried. An examination of the skeletons revealed that without exception the dead were adults of under 40 years of age and of large stature. Think about what implications this discovery could have.

“Gladiator training”

- 18 Get fit like a gladiator – how many squats can you do in one minute?

Behind the scenes

Information panel “Function”

- 19 Additionally, wild animals such as bears and lions often either fought humans or each other in the arena. Prior to their entry they were locked in small cells which nowadays are located below the seating balcony. Search for and count every entry point which has remained intact below the seating balcony.

- 20 In front of the cages there used to be a wall of planks around the entire arena behind which gladiators and helpers could safely move during performances without being seen by the audience. Mark the wall in the model pictured above.



- 21 There is a corridor that leads from the arena directly towards the spectator balcony. This is where victorious gladiators directly entered the tribune of honour. Search for this corridor and mark it on the model.

Nowadays you reach the cellar through the stairs of the sand square. It is yet unknown where the entrance used to be in Roman times.

- 22** The Romans actually already had real lifts. There was a rising stage installed in the cellar of the arena. Find out what these lifts were used for.

Black magic in the arena cellar

- 23** Archaeologists found many „secret messages“ during excavations of the arena cellar. Find out what material these messages were written on.

- 24** Examine what was written on the lead plaques.

- 25** The pictured curse plaque was directed at a specific person. Look for the name and write it down.

- 26** This last exercise is tricky. Think about why people put down so many lead plaques in the amphitheatre in particular. Do you have any idea?

Now you have collected a lot of information about the amphitheatre in Trier. Your teacher has the answers with which you can check if all your findings are correct.

We hope you had fun at the amphitheatre – and we hope you’ll come back!

Impressum

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Abbildungsverzeichnis / Image index

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