



Student/Classroom: _____ Examiner: _____ Assessment Date: _____
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### Roman Gladiators: Bloody Entertainers 809

The Six-Minute Solution, Sopris West

Perhaps you, like many Americans today, are an avid sports fan. If so, you probably enjoy going **(to)** a sports stadium to be entertained. **(The)** citizens of ancient Rome also enjoyed **(sports)**. In A.D. 106, Romans gathered in **(large)** arenas, such as the famous Roman **(Coliseum)**. They came to enjoy an afternoon **(of)** free food and exciting entertainment. The **(Romans)** loved to watch the gladiators! Gladiator **(fighting)** began in Rome in 246 B.C. **(Three)** brothers organized one of the first **(gladiator)** fights. They did this as a **(way)** of honoring their death father. Then, **(gladiator)** fighting became a popular event at **(funerals)**. Eventually, Roman gladiator fighting became a **(profit-making)** sports event.

There are differences between **(the)** Roman gladiators and the professional fighters **(of)** today. For one thing, Roman gladiators **(were)** armed with weapons such as swords. **(In)** fact, the word “gladiator” comes from **(a)** Latin word meaning “sword.” Another difference **(is)** that the Roman gladiators fought to **(the)** death. Many of the gladiators were **(criminals)** or prisoners of war. These gladiators **(could)** earn their freedom if they survived **(for)** three to five years. Unfortunately, most **(gladiators)** did not live that long even **(though)** they only fought two or three **(times)** a year. Sometimes free men volunteered **(to)** become gladiators. Like modern-day athletes, Roman **(gladiators)** were often viewed as heroes. This **(was)** especially true in times of peace. **(When)** Romans did not have war heroes **(to)** look up to, they admired their **(gladiators)**. The gladiator games were extremely violent. **(However)**, the ancient Romans found the games **(entertaining)**. Today, the term “Roman holiday” means **(to)** derive pleasure from watching barbaric and **(gory)** entertainment.



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Perhaps you, like many Americans today, are an avid sports fan. If so, you probably enjoy going **(extremely, became, to)** a sports stadium to be entertained. **(Many, The, Is)** citizens of ancient Rome also enjoyed **(sports, when, large)**. In A.D. 106, Romans gathered in **(citizens, however, large)** arenas, such as the famous Roman **(modern-day, armed, Coliseum)**. They came to enjoy an afternoon **(for, of, gory)** free food and exciting entertainment. The **(true, word, Romans)** loved to watch the gladiators! Gladiator **(were, years, fighting)** began in Rome in 246 B.C. **(Like, Three, Athletes)** brothers organized one of the first **(free, up, gladiator)** fights. They did this as a **(watching, way, they)** of honoring their death father. Then, **(romans, three, gladiator)** fighting became a popular event at **(funerals, most, afternoon)**. Eventually, Roman gladiator fighting became a **(profit-making, war, today)** sports event.

There are differences between **(gladiators, eventually, the)** Roman gladiators and the professional fighters **(three, of, weapons)** today. For one thing, Roman gladiators **(be, were, to)** armed with weapons such as swords. **(Entertainment, Going, In)** fact, the word “gladiator” comes from **(death, these, a)** Latin word meaning “sword.” Another difference **(is, professional, viewed)** that the Roman gladiators fought to **(at, earn, the)** death. Many of the gladiators were **(today, criminals, are)** or prisoners of war. These gladiators **(could, this, volunteered)** earn their freedom if they survived **(for, often, fighting)** three to five years. Unfortunately, most **(gladiators, exciting, meaning)** did not live that long even **(five, though, fan)** they only fought two or three **(funerals, times, event)** a year. Sometimes free men volunteered **(term, thing, to)** become gladiators. Like modern-day athletes, Roman **(gladiators, violent, criminals)** were often viewed as heroes. This **(was, holiday, a)** especially true in times of peace. **(Survived, When, Though)** Romans did not have war heroes **(to, and, differences)** look up to, they admired their **(was, gladiators, brothers)**. The gladiator games were extremely violent. **(However, Watch, From)**, the ancient Romans found the games **(entertaining, father, a)**. Today, the term “Roman holiday” means **(to, fact, for)** derive



pleasure from watching barbaric and **(this, gory, freedom)** entertainment.