

## Journal: A Day at the Colosseum

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Use this worksheet to organize and write your letter. Answer all of the questions.  
Use additional paper if needed. Use this worksheet to organize your letter.

- 1** What was the purpose of the gladiator festivities? Who sponsored the games and what political purpose did they serve?

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- 2** Who became a gladiator? Why might someone have wanted to be a gladiator? What traits do you think might have been necessary to voluntarily become a gladiator or to be a successful gladiator?

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- 3** How did the public generally view the gladiators?

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- 4** How were animals used in Colosseum events and where did the animals come from?

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- 5** Consider what you have learned about the gladiator and animal events. What does this information tell you about Roman culture and the things people valued?

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- 6 Describe the Colosseum on the opening day of the festivities. What was the atmosphere like? What did you see there? Describe at least four different parts of the Colosseum that you noticed during your day there. Be specific!

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- 7 What was the emperor's role at the festivities? What does this role tell you about the power of the emperor?

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- 8 What pictures or other visuals would you like to send with your letter? Choose at least three. Cite your sources and include a line of description. If the image is from a Web page, note the URL.

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### **Extra Credit**

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What new phrases, words, and information did you discover in your research?

# A Day at the Roman Colosseum

*In A.D. 80, Rome had nearly one million people. Many of them were unemployed and poor. During that same year, construction was completed on the Colosseum. These two facts are related. The Roman government provided entertainment at public arenas like the Colosseum in part to distract people from the problems of city life. Among the events held at the Colosseum were gladiator fights, in which trained warriors fought to the death.*

You are living in Rome in the year A.D. 80. You have just returned from the Colosseum, where the city is celebrating the building's opening with festivities and entertainment. The entertainment included gladiator fights and exotic animals. You also saw the emperor and other high officials of the Roman government. Excited about the events of the day, you decide to write a two paragraph letter to a friend sharing your experiences at the Colosseum.

You will research the gladiators and animals, the Colosseum's architecture, and the role of the emperor. You will also consider what the Colosseum festivities tell you about Roman culture and politics.

For your product for this assignment, you will write a two paragraph letter from the perspective of a Colosseum-goer. In this letter, you will describe the sights, sounds, smells, and action of the Colosseum to the person you are writing to (your husband/wife, son, daughter, cousin, father, mother, friend in another part of the Empire, etc.)

Your letter should include things like:

- a greeting and introduction
- a description of the gladiator and animal events you saw
- a description of what the Colosseum looks like
- your observations of the emperor's behavior at the Colosseum
- your reactions to the gladiators, the reactions of other people in the crowd, and a description of how people viewed the gladiators
- an explanation of why you think these games were held in the first place and who might benefit from them
- a conclusion containing your reaction to the event, including some of the things you think it reveals about your (Roman) culture

# Grading Rubric

	<b>Exemplary 8–10 Points</b>	<b>Accomplished 5–7 Points</b>	<b>Developing 1–4 Points</b>
<b>Research</b>	<p>You did an outstanding job! You used the resources to research the topic and you have a clear understanding of the gladiators, animals, Colosseum architecture, the emperor's role, and the public's view of the gladiators. You also did an excellent job of reflecting on the things you learned to determine what they reveal about Roman culture and values. You provided relevant details in your answers to the journal questions, and you thoroughly answered each question.</p>	<p>Your research was solid and you answered the worksheet questions and. Providing greater detail from your research would have improved the content of your letter. For example, you might have been more specific in describing who the gladiators were and what they did or in explaining your ideas about what the events in the Colosseum reveal about Roman culture.</p>	<p>Good start! You conducted research and provided some answers to the worksheet. You did need to include more facts and details about the things you observed at the Colosseum, and you could have been more clear and specific in your analysis of what the events in the Colosseum reveal about Roman culture.</p>
<b>Letter</b>	<p>Your letter was excellent! It was extremely well-written and highly detailed. Your letter had a greeting, introduction, clear topics, and a closing. You provided detailed information about the things you saw at the Colosseum and you clearly described your reactions to these observations. Your drawings went well with your topic and included excellent descriptions. You used correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, and wrote in complete sentences.</p>	<p>Your letter was easy to follow and contained a good amount of detail. Your letter included a greeting, introduction, topics, and a closing. For a stronger letter, you might have added more details about the things you saw at the Colosseum or more thoroughly and clearly described your reactions to the things you observed. You included drawings with your letter. You did not have many grammar, punctuation, or spelling mistakes and you wrote in complete sentences.</p>	<p>Your letter may not have been as clearly written or may not have contained as many details as would have been necessary to receive more points. You may have also forgotten some of the required components including drawings. Reviewing grammar, punctuation, and spelling can always help your writing. Think about how you could improve your letter to make it even more informative for your friend.</p>