

Amphitheatres

The Romans liked watching sport in amphitheatres. They enjoyed cruel and dangerous contests.

Amphitheatres were round buildings, a little like football stadiums. The contests took place in the arena in the middle while the spectators sat on raised seats around it.

There were tunnels and cages underneath the arena for the wild animals.

The contests began with animals fighting gladiators. At midday, two gladiators fought each other.

There were also chariot races. The chariots went very fast and lots of drivers were killed. The Roman audiences enjoyed that.

1. What did Roman audiences enjoy most?

2. What would the gladiators have seen?

3. What would you have seen if you had arrived shortly before midday?
