



**0. Roman Gladiators - Story Preface**

1. GLADIATORS
2. LEGACY of MARCUS AURELIUS
3. COMMODUS - IN CHARGE
4. THE ROMAN GAMES
5. COMMODUS IN THE ARENA
6. THUMBS DOWN FOR COMMODUS

Photograph depicting the western side of the Roman Colosseum by Jean-Pol Grandmont. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 3.0.

*Hail, Caesar,  
Those about to die  
Salute thee*

(Or, in Latin,  
the language of the day):  
*Ave Imperator,  
morituri te salutant*

Suetonius  
Historian of Ancient Rome

Usually "those about to die" in the Roman Colosseum were condemned prisoners, professional gladiators, Christians, or animals. The spectacle of the "games" was often bloody, a tradition likely started in Rome by its earlier conquerors, the Etruscans.

But not until the reign of Commodus (180-192 AD) did Roman citizens witness wholesale slaughter by a Caesar himself, dressed as a gladiator and acting like a madman. Who was this Emperor, this Caesar, who thought of himself as a god? And who were the gladiators of ancient Rome?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:  
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Roman-Gladiators>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:  
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Roman-Gladiators>

Media Stream

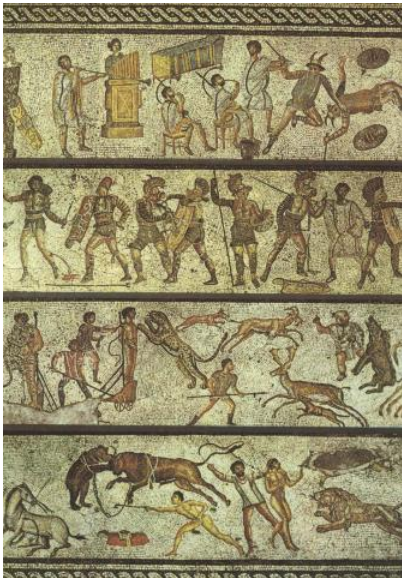


### Commodus

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Commodus>



### Roman-Era - Mosaic Depicting Animals

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Roman-Era-Mosaic-Depicting-Animals>



### Roman Gladiators

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>