

# GLADIATORS



Roman nobles used gladiator fights to gain the love of the people. They promoted themselves.

**Gladiators** were trained fighters. They fought against other gladiators. They fought against wild animals. They fought in **arenas**. Arenas are areas for public events. Gladiators fought to entertain people. They fought to the death. These fights occurred in ancient Rome. They were called games. Many people watched gladiators fight.

Gladiator fights may have started as **funerals**. Funerals are events that honor people's deaths. Rich nobles hosted gladiator fights. They honored their dead with blood. They thought human blood cleaned dead people's souls. These fights became popular. They became bloody sporting events. They took place for a thousand years.