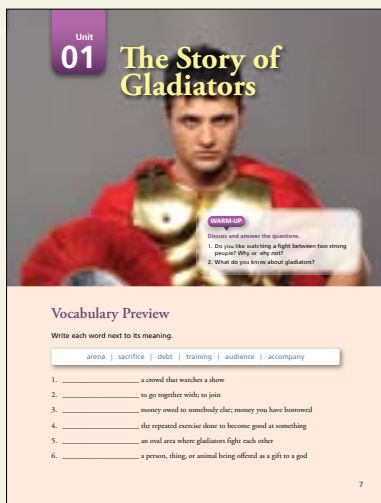


How to Use This Book

Each unit in the *Reading Jump Plus* series includes eight parts. These parts work together to initiate student interest and develop understanding by first getting students thinking about the unit's topic, leading students through a reading passage, then consolidating students' comprehension of the reading passage, having students consider their own experiences and opinions related to the topic, and finally, further exposing students to the key vocabulary learned in each unit. A summary of each section is below.



Warm-Up

Each Warm-Up activity includes two questions aimed at stimulating students' interest about the topic. Sample responses to each Warm-Up question are provided in the answer key.

Vocabulary Preview

This section lists key vocabulary found within the passage. They are level-appropriate and limited, so students encounter mostly known words in each reading passage.

Before You Read

With this short introduction to the topic, students are provided with a means of accessing additional information helpful for the understanding of the reading passage. Each Before You Read section offers more specific details of the topic and gives new opportunities for discussion.

The Story of Gladiators



Before You Read

Being, ultimate fighting is a popular sport. People gather around their arenas and watch as two willing contestants fight to a stop. It is a brutal and violent sport. However, ultimate fighting is still considered to be the greatest gladiator fight held in ancient times, which thousands of Romans filled the amphitheaters to watch.

In ancient Rome, there were accomplished, professional warriors who fought for public entertainment. They were known as gladiators. Their job was to fight each other in the arena to entertain the Roman people. They all had to endure hours of training so that they could win. Most gladiators were slaves, criminals, or prisoners of war. However, free men sometimes decided to become gladiators, especially if they had a lot of debt and needed to make money. These men were not very careful.

The first famous gladiator fight occurred in 264 BCE. Two brothers, Marcus and Decimus Brutus, organized three fights in honor of their father who had died. The fights were part of a ceremony to make sure that their father would be accompanied into the "next world" by strong, armed men. Romans believed that their gods liked seeing gladiator fights. When a gladiator was killed in a fight, he was considered a sacrifice for the gods. So, when a dead person was accompanied by a dead gladiator, the gods of the "next world" would be happy. They would give good treatment to the dead person. Moreover, gladiators who conquered their enemies might become celebrities.

Gladiator fights took place in amphitheaters. The largest built was the Colosseum in Rome. It held 50,000 people and had 80 entrances. During a gladiator show, there were usually several fights. Some fights were between a gladiator and a large animal, like a tiger or lion. There were also other types of fights, like fights between female archers or between a large group of dwarves and a smaller group of full-grown soldiers. Sometimes, regular people were forced to fight as gladiators as a punishment for their religious beliefs. It was important for gladiators to die with dignity, without begging for their life when they lost. Usually, the fascinated people in the audience got to vote about whether the losing gladiator should be killed or not.



Colosseum: A large building with many seats arranged around one central area.
Gladiator: Being strongly connected to

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Reading Passage

The Reading Passages in each unit have been structured to present information in a familiar organizational pattern. Suggested time limits have been provided at the end of each passage to help students develop their reading speed. Additionally, audio recordings of the passages are available.

Comprehension Check

Choose the best answer.

- What is the main topic of the passage?
 - What the biggest amphitheaters of the world are
 - Who gladiators were and what they did
 - What the Roman people believed
 - What Marcus and Decimus Brutus did to honor their father
- Why was the first gladiator fight held?
 - To entertain the citizens
 - To honor a dead man
 - To kill enemy soldiers
 - To scare the gods
- What role did women sometimes play in gladiator fights?
 - They determined who would fight each other.
 - They chose the weapons that would be allowed in each fight.
 - They shot arrows at each other.
 - They fought against a group of dwarves.
- How did the spectators participate in the outcome of gladiator fights?
 - They set the rules for each fight.
 - They threw objects at the fighters.
 - They were able to join in the fight to help the gladiator of their choice.
 - They got to decide if the loser should live or die.

Answer these questions.

- What types of people were gladiators?

- What did Romans believe about their gods?

- Where did gladiator fights take place?

Comprehension Check

The Comprehension Check section includes four multiple choice questions and three open-ended questions. Each question focuses on specific details of the passage to solidify understanding. Answers are provided in the answer key.

Think & Write: Sequence Comprehension Check Think & Write Vocabulary Practice

Step 1 Draw a line between A and B to complete each sentence.

A	B
1. This is because a gladiator •	• a gladiator fights because much more common.
2. Marcus and Decimus Brutus •	• his father who had died.
3. After 264 BCE, •	• to accompany him to the "next world."
4. They wanted a strong gladiator •	• d. was a sacrifice to the gods.
5. These fights were in honor of •	• c. organized three gladiator fights in 214 BCE.

Step 2 Put the sentences in the correct order.

The Story of Gladiators

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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Think & Write

Each Think & Write activity presents a graphic organizer reflecting key information from the reading passage. With these graphic organizers, students reinforce their comprehension of the unit as well as practice organizing texts. Answers for each activity are provided in the answer key.

Think & Speak

The Think & Speak section provides three questions to allow students to reflect further on the unit's topic. Students are asked to discuss the questions with their peers in order to increase their speaking and conversing skills.

Vocabulary Practice

A variety of activities are recycled throughout the Vocabulary Practice section. Fun puzzles, multiple choice questions, and summary completion activities give students additional exposure to the key vocabulary of each unit.

Think & Speak Comprehension Check Think & Write Vocabulary Practice

Discuss and answer the questions with your friends.

1. What do you think of gladiators? Why?
2. Would you like to see a gladiator fight? Why or why not?
3. Do you think it is a good idea for men to fight animals?

Vocabulary Practice

Complete the puzzle with words from the unit.

Across	Down
2. the amount of money that you borrowed from someone else	1. formal jewelry for a special occasion
5. to go along with someone to go together	3. exercising over and over to become a better and stronger fighter
	4. a human, animal, or plant offered to a god for thanks
	6. the oval space where gladiators fight each other

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