

RANDOM ARENA COMBATANTS

Use these tables for inspiration or roll them up randomly. Some of the tables could be rolled more.

d8 The arena is...

1. An ancient stone structure used for centuries.
2. An old stone structure used for generations.
3. A wondrous construction with grand stands, trap doors, and elevators.
4. A sturdy wooden structure, recently built.
5. A crisp stone structure, recently built.
6. A set of rickety wooden stands around a dirt ring.
7. A circle of rope surrounded by spectators and a few cages.
8. An underground pit with spectators leaning over a railing above.

d8 The games are being held...

1. In honor of the sovereign's birthday.
2. In honor of a historical anniversary.
3. In honor of a recent military victory.
4. To turn a legitimate profit for the organizers.
5. To turn a gambling profit for the organizers.
6. To dispose of prisoners.
7. Strictly to entertain the masses.
8. To determine a champion for a dangerous quest or traditional ceremony.

d8 The main event is...

1. A battle royale / grand melee.
2. A reenactment of a historical battle.
3. A duel between two arena champions.
4. A duel between a champion and a severe underdog.
5. Feeding prisoners to beasts.
6. A battle of man versus beast (one or more bears, chimeras, dragons, giant spiders, lions, owlbears, tigers, or wolves).
7. A chariot race or foot race.
8. Feats of strength.

d12 The day's champion wins...

1. A heavy purse of silver.
2. A sizable purse of gold.
3. An expensive and ornate weapon.
4. An expensive and ornate piece of armor.
5. A floral crown and a fine silver chain.
6. A floral crown and a bejeweled gold belt.
7. A fine silk cloak and a bejeweled silver chain.
8. A petition of the sovereign.
9. A position of honor in the army and a purse of silver.
10. A position of honor in the sovereign's guard.
11. A week of pampering and pleasure and a purse of silver.
12. A night with one of the nobles' wives and a purse of gold.

d6 The crowd is made up of mostly...

1. Merchants, nobles, and the well-to-do.
2. Soldiers and camp-followers.
3. Local artisans and shopkeepers.
4. Local peasants and unskilled workers.
5. Foreigners and travelers.
6. Slave, servants, and laborers.
7. Sailors, pirates, and knaves.
8. People of all social strata.

d6 The crowd's attitude is...

1. Rowdy and festive.
2. Eager and excited.
3. Relaxed and easy-going.
4. Hostile and tense.
5. Disappointed and angry.
6. Rowdy and rebellious.

INDIVIDUAL GLADIATORS

d8 The gladiator is armored in...

1. Nothing.
2. A leather vest.
3. A leather jerkin.
4. The hides of exotic beasts.
5. A breastplate.
6. Chainmail.
7. The costume of a foreign adversary.
8. The costume of a military hero.

d12 The gladiator is wielding...

1. A spear.
2. A gladius (shortsword).
3. Two shortswords.
4. A spear and a shield.
5. A shortsword and a shield.
6. A heavy flail.
7. A morningstar.
8. A huge axe.
9. A whip.
10. Brass knuckles.
11. A net and trident.
12. An exotic, curved blade.

d10 The gladiator fights with...

1. Hit-and-run tactics.
2. Making a direct assault.
3. Making a mad charge.
4. Fancy footwork.
5. Unpredictable lurches.
6. Masterful combat maneuvers.
7. Kicking and stomping.
8. Lots of taunts and jeers.
9. Lots of screaming and shouting.
10. Lots of head-butting.

d12 The gladiator is...

1. A well-trained slave.
2. A poorly-trained slave.
3. A seasoned veteran of the arena.
4. A veteran of warfare.
5. A prisoner of war.
6. A political prisoner.
7. The son of a poor man.
8. A drunk.
9. A captured criminal.
10. A former pirate.
11. A de-frocked priest.
12. A favorite among the ladies.

d12 The gladiator fights for...

1. The love of the sport.
2. The love of someone he cannot have.
3. Pure bloodlust.
4. A chance to deal out sadistic torment.
5. A chance at freedom.
6. A chance at vengeance.
7. A chance to escape from life imprisonment.
8. A chance to escape from execution.
9. A chance at redemption.
10. God and country.
11. Fortune and glory.
12. Strength and honor.

d12 On the gladiator's face is...

1. A nose ring.
2. A garish earring.
3. An empty eye socket.
4. A grisly scar.
5. A haughty sneer.
6. A look of panic.
7. A look of sadness.
8. An eager grin.
9. A frame of long, beautiful long hair.
10. Ferocious sideburns.
11. An unruly beard.
12. A long-braided mustache.

d12 On the gladiator's body is...

1. A tattoo of a sea creature (a fish, a kraken, a mermaid, an octopus).
2. A tattoo of a great beast (a bear, a boar, a dragon, an eagle, a lion, a wolf).
3. A tattoo of a skull.
4. A tattoo of a weapon (a dagger, a spear, a sword, an axe).
5. A festering wound.
6. A frightening scar.
7. The brand of a slave.
8. The brand of a soldier.
9. A pronounced gut.
10. A frightening amount of bulging muscles.
11. An obscene amount of oil.
12. An intimidating amount of hair.