

ROMAN ENTERTAINMENT AND LEISURE

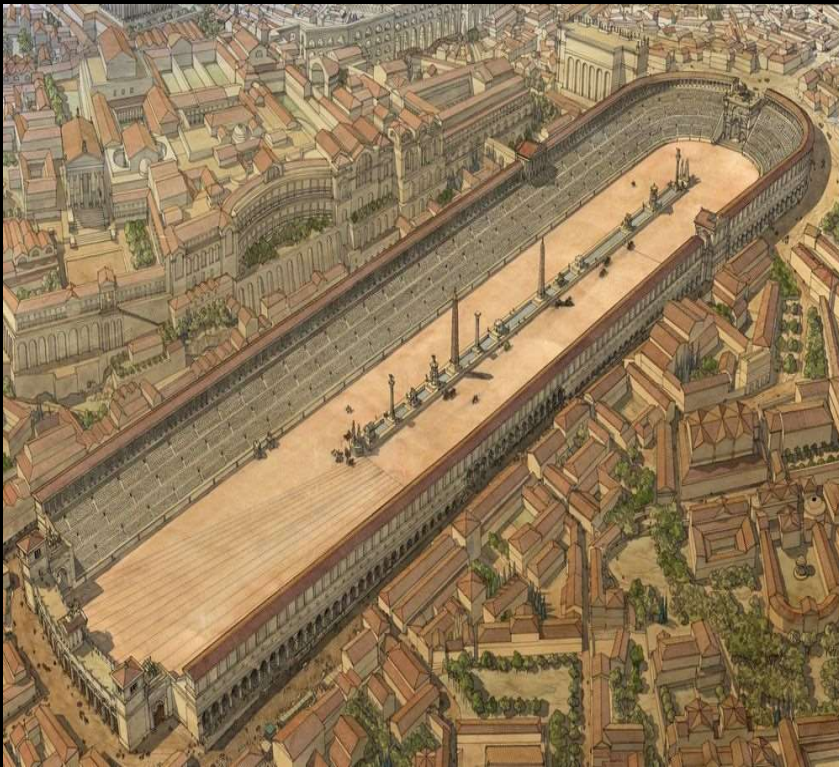
- Major Topics covered in this lecture are the following:
 - Circus Maximus
 - Naval Battles
 - Theater
- Board Games and Sports

CIRCUS MAXIMUS

- One of the oldest sports in Roman History
- Roman writers believed Romulus used the chariot racing event to lure Sabines to this event to seized the young women. (6th Century BCE)
- The purpose of the Circus Maximus was for ludi (Roman Public Games that celebrated religious games).



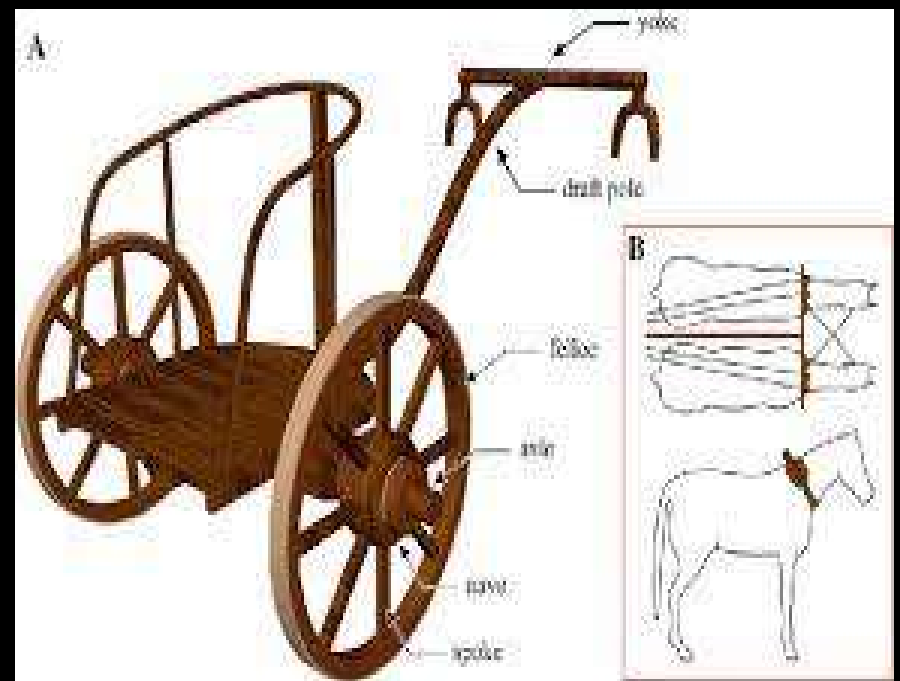
CIRCUS MAXIMUS



- About 2,000 feet long and about 400 feet wide track
- Held over 250,000 fans ~~about~~ 250,000 fans according to the Pliny the Elder
- Canal separated fans from the track
- Sometimes there were floods and fires

CIRCUS MAXIMUS

- Chariots were made of a light material probably leather
- Chariots were color coded. (red, blue, green, and white)
 - Charioteers wore leather helmets
- Circle the track seven times (about 7 miles)
- Chariots usually had 4 horses but sometimes (6, 8, or 12)

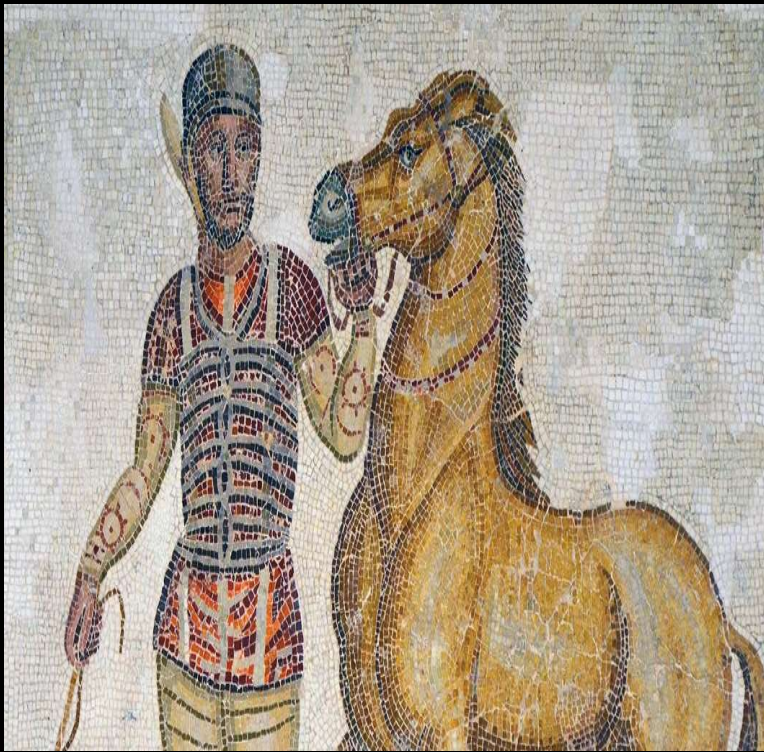


MOST FAMOUS CHARIOTEER SCORPUS



- He won over 2000 races
- Won the title of militaries.
- This title would apply to any horse who as many races.

FAMOUS HORSE



- Cotynus
- Won over 445 races

CHARIOT RACE AT THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS (VIDEO)





OTHER EVENTS IN THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS

- 1. Gladiatorial Fights
 - 2. Beast Fights
- 3. Track and Field Activities
 - 4. Plays
 - 5. Executions
- Every year more than 100 days of activities

ROMAN THEATRE





FREQUENT ROMAN THEATRICAL THEMES

- **Mimes** with comical sensational plots accompanied with sexual innuendos.

- **Pantomimes** (with solo dancers with chorus often re-creating tragic Greek myths)

In the Imperial period the chorus was replaced music to fit the scene.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GREEK AND ROMAN THEATRE

Conventions of Roman Theatre

- More speaking actors than Greeks
- Chorus not used as often as the Greeks did
- Actors played one part
- Masks still used
- Stock Characters embellished
 - Series of stereotyped characters
 - Used often in comedy
 - Easily identifiable
 - Anticipate behavior - reactions

ROMAN MASKS



- Wearing masks was a Greek tradition that the Romans duplicated.
- Each actor would play one part throughout the play, each wearing these **masks with an expression that represented the character's dominate trait.**

TYPICAL ROMAN CHARACTERS

- The Masks and the names demonstrated characters personality.
- 1. Adulescens= Hero
- 2. Virgo= Girl Next Door
- 3. Meretrix= Prostitute
- 4. Servus= Wily Slave
- 5. Leno=The Pimp
- 6. Miles Gloriosus=Soldier
- 7. Parasite=Slave /sponge

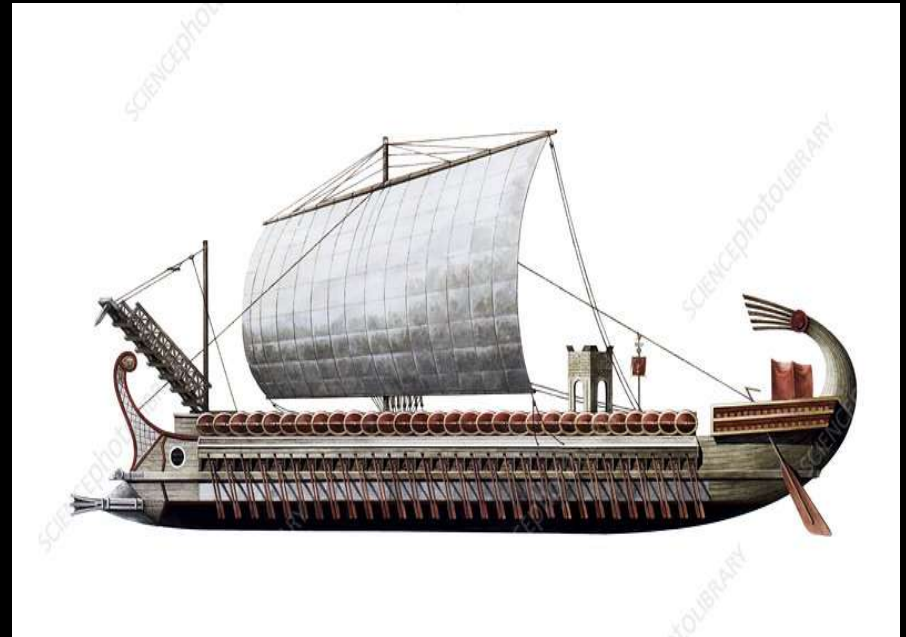
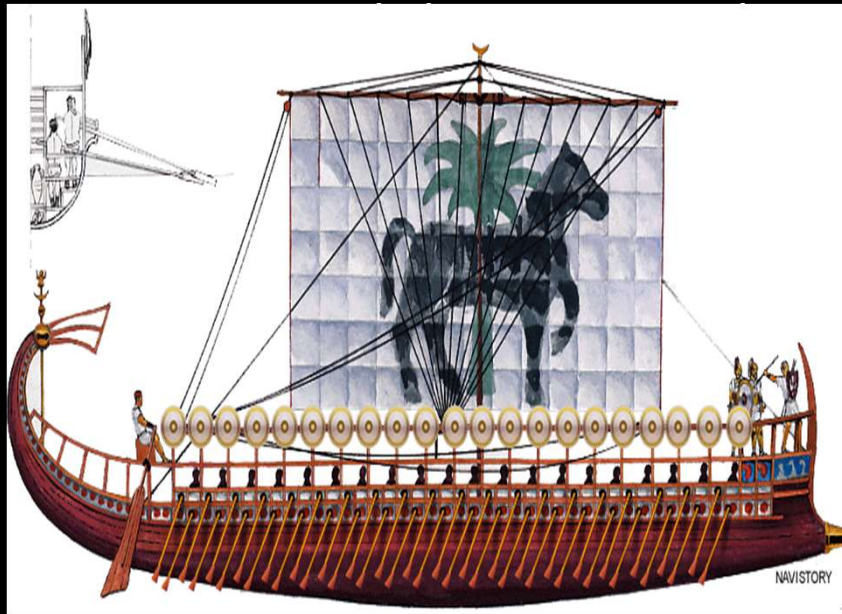
ROMAN THEATER WITH PLAUTUS, TERENCE AND SENECA



ROMAN NAVAL SHIPS



NAVAL REENACTMENT BATTLES (PUNIC WARS)



DIMENSIONS OF THESE TYPICAL WARSHIPS

- Lengths were often 150 feet
- Sometime with 5 banks of rowers
 - With keels and sails
- Crew with 300 sailors and sometimes 120 marines
 - Weapons like Artillery Ballista
- These ships were actual size in some of the reenactments

NAVAL BATTLES

NAVAL GLADIATOR BATTLES

WHAT WERE THEY LIKE?



GAMBLING

- Gambling was often considered illegal, but enforcement was very limited.
- Augustus lost 30,000 Sesterces betting on Gladiatorial match in the Colosseum



GAMBLING IN ROME

Gambling debts could be sometimes forgiven with the help of a patron

People gambled everywhere including homes, public places, and taverns





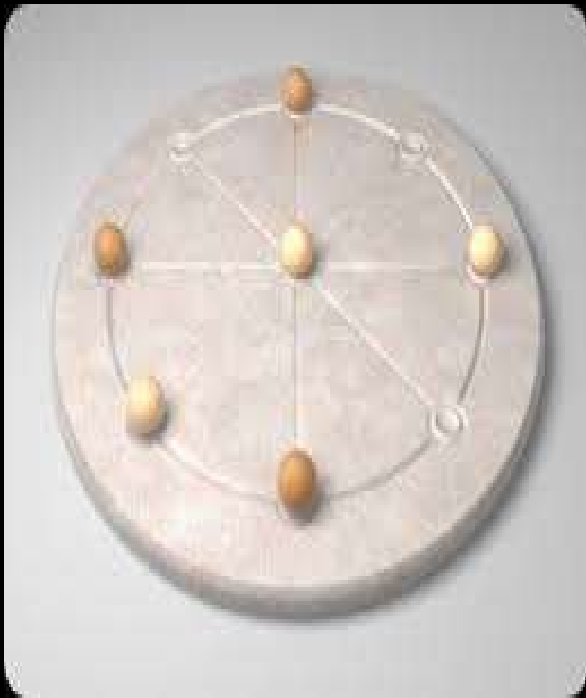
GAMBLING IN AMERICA

- 80% of Americans have gambled once in their life.
60% in the last year.
- 54 Billion in revenue from gambling
- Men are 2 to 1 more likely to become addicted
 - 3 to 4% have gambling addiction
- Gaming machines
 - Japan is #1
 - U.S. is #2

OTHER ROMAN SPORTS

- Roman Wrestling
 - *Popular but frequently fixed.*
- Ball games with other players and often played for exercise rather than winning.
 - Foot Races
 - Archery
 - Hoop Rolling

ROMAN BOARD GAMES



- **Tabula Lusoria**

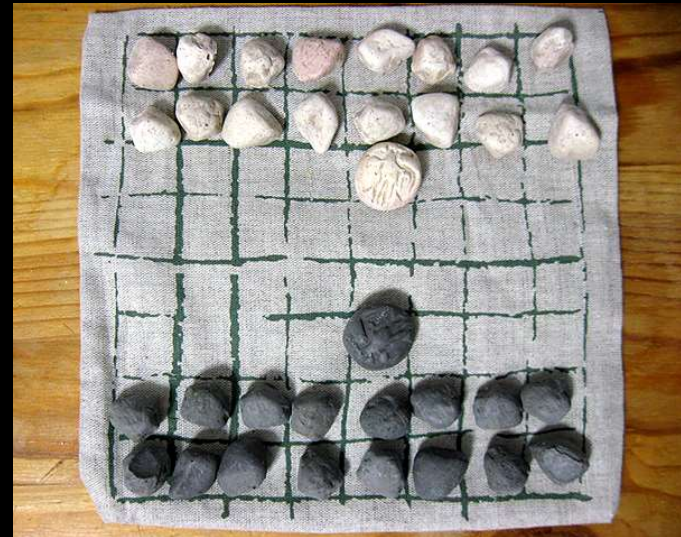
- Attempt to get three on the same color in a row.
- Diagonally or around the circle.

ROMAN BOARD GAMES

Game called Bear



Roman Chess





COMPETITIVE TEAM SPORTS

- Team sports like soccer or baseball
Did not exist in Rome.

Sports involving women and men together was not practiced
Entertainment was either races or fights

ROMAN BOXING



- Roman Boxing was different than Greek because they used metal in their gloves rather than leather straps.
- No weight categories
- No time limits
- Sometimes criminals would fight to death.