



CHAPTER 5:

FESTIVALS, GAMES AND SHOWS

Religious ceremonies and festivals

1. Why did the Romans have so many religious ceremonies and festivals? _____

2. Some major festivals included large public celebrations. Give the names of two of Rome's most important festivals.

- _____
- _____

3. Some religious ceremonies were observed more privately at home, such as _____

4. There were also a number of minor public festivals such as _____

5. What was the purpose of the Lemuria? _____

Saturnalia

6. Which god did the Saturnalia honour? _____

7. What made the celebrations of the Saturnalia different from most other Roman festivals?

8. In your opinion, what would have been the best part of celebrating the Saturnalia? _____



Lupercalia

Consider Figure 5.3: Lupercalia

- Which animals did the Romans sacrifice for the Lupercalia?

- Why might a Roman wish to be struck with a bloody strip of goat skin during the Lupercalia?

Chariot races

9. Chariot races originally honoured the gods who drove chariots. Who were these gods?

10. How many horses pulled a chariot? _____

11. How many chariots competed in a race? _____

12. What were the four colours of chariot teams? _____

13. How many laps were there in a typical chariot race? _____

Gladiatorial shows

14. Gladiatorial shows were originally part of _____ ceremonies.

16. Did gladiators always fight to the death? _____

17. Name the most famous gladiatorial arena in Rome. _____