

SPARTACUS

QUIS FUIT?

- ❁ Spartacus was a freeman-turned-slave-turned-gladiator-turned-rebellion leader
- ❁ Born in ca. 109 BC
- ❁ Died in 71 BC



ANTE SERVITIUM

- ⊗ Not much is known about his origins, other than he was likely born in Thrace (in Greece) and he likely served in the Roman army.
 - ⊗ It is possible that he was captured and forced to be an auxiliary in the ranks
- ⊗ At some point in his life, he was sold into slavery
- ⊗ At some point later, he trained at a gladiatorial school in Italy
 - ⊗ While the Romans appreciated the entertainment gladiators provided, the gladiators themselves lived poor lives in harsh circumstances under savage training practices.

SPARTACO GLADIATORE

- ⊗ While training at his gladiatorial school, Spartacus and some other gladiators-in-training forged a plot to escape.
- ⊗ Spartacus escaped in 73 BC and hid at Mt. Vesuvius (post-devastating eruption) where he was joined by a party of other escaped slaves
- ⊗ This rebellion became known as the Third Servile War or the Gladiators' War



IN TUMULTU

- ⊗ Spartacus became the leader of the slaves, leading an army against the Roman administration.
- ⊗ Roman leaders sent a series of smaller troops to hinder the rebellion by starving them out and weakening their men
 - ⊗ However, Spartacus and crew managed to defeat them
- ⊗ Next, Spartacus and his troops gathered and trained more slaves, meanwhile pillaging and destroying several small towns in the Italian countryside
- ⊗ Spartacus really wanted to quit while he was ahead and to seek refuge over the Alps in the north or Sicily in the south.
 - ⊗ However, his troops refused to give up the fight and he was forced to keep going

IN TUMULTU

- ⊗ When Spartacus had amassed a major following, the Roman leaders began to take this rebellion seriously and ordered up the troops against them.
- ⊗ Marcus Licinius Crassus, the richest man in Italy, was the general of one set of legions
- ⊗ Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus was the general of a second set of legions
- ⊗ The Roman legions fought the slave troops
 - ⊗ The Romans essentially cornered the slaves in the heel of the boot of Italy and despite a handful of successes, the slave rebellion fell
 - ⊗ Many of the slaves, including Spartacus, died in combat
 - ⊗ Many of the other slaves escaped but were later captured and crucified for their role in the rebellion

IN FINE

- ⦿ Spartacus became a symbol of standing up against your oppressors, inspirational to those who seek to improve their station in life.

⦿ Spartacus