

Pueri, puellae et ludi*

To a Roman, the Latin word *ludi* meant different sorts of games – from a board game to a gladiator fight in the amphitheatre.

Gladiators were so called because some carried a *gladius*, a short sword. Others were armed only with a net and spear.

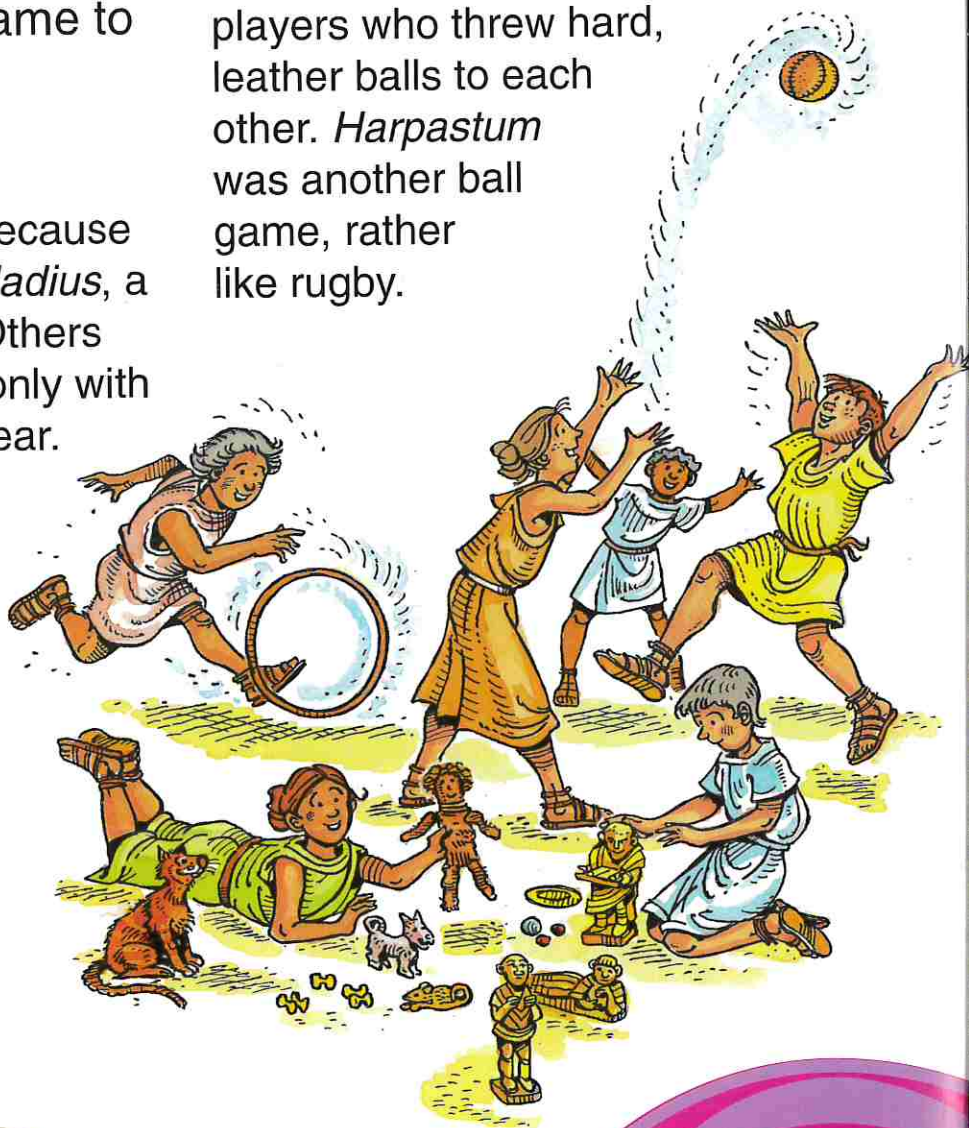


Toys

Children had some of the same games and toys as children today. They had marbles and miniature people and animals made of clay. Outside, there were games with hoops and balls.

Playing ball

The game of *trigon* was for three players who threw hard, leather balls to each other. *Harpastum* was another ball game, rather like rugby.



This carved, stone board game was discovered on Hadrian's Wall. It has counters, dice and shaker pots.

- Play the game of knucklebones.
- Find the rules of *tabula*.