THE ROMAN EMPIRE
IN THE FIRST CENTURY

Name: ________________________________
Date: ______________________________

Does the Punishment Fit the Crime?

Directions:

Direct students to the Timeline
[http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/special/timeline01.html] on The Roman Empire in
the First Century Web site [http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/index.html]. Use the
timeline along with these other features on the site:

- Emperors [http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/emperors.html]
- Life in Roman Times [http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/life.html]
- Enemies and Rebels [http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/enemies.html]

Answer each question below related to the way criminals, prisoners of war, and people
in positions of power were treated. Examine how Roman entertainment glorified
violence by making death a part of the entertainment experience. Write a complete
answer for each question and be prepared to discuss your findings with your
classmates.

1. For people accused of crimes, what were some of the typical punishments used in
ancient Rome?

2. During times of war, what were some of the ways that extreme violence was
demonstrated by the inhabitants of the Roman Empire?
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3. Rather than removing emperors and other powerful men and women from their positions, murder was frequently used. Make a list of prominent emperors, women, and famous Romans who were victims of murder and explain the reasons why each was murdered.

4. Learn about religious persecution and how Jews and Christians were victimized by the residents of ancient Rome.

5. Discuss why chariot racing and gladiators were so popular in ancient Rome and what one could expect to see when watching:
   - a gladiator performance:
   - a day at the chariot races:
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• Roman theatrical performances:

In the space below, record any additional information you find related to violent acts perpetrated by the Romans.