

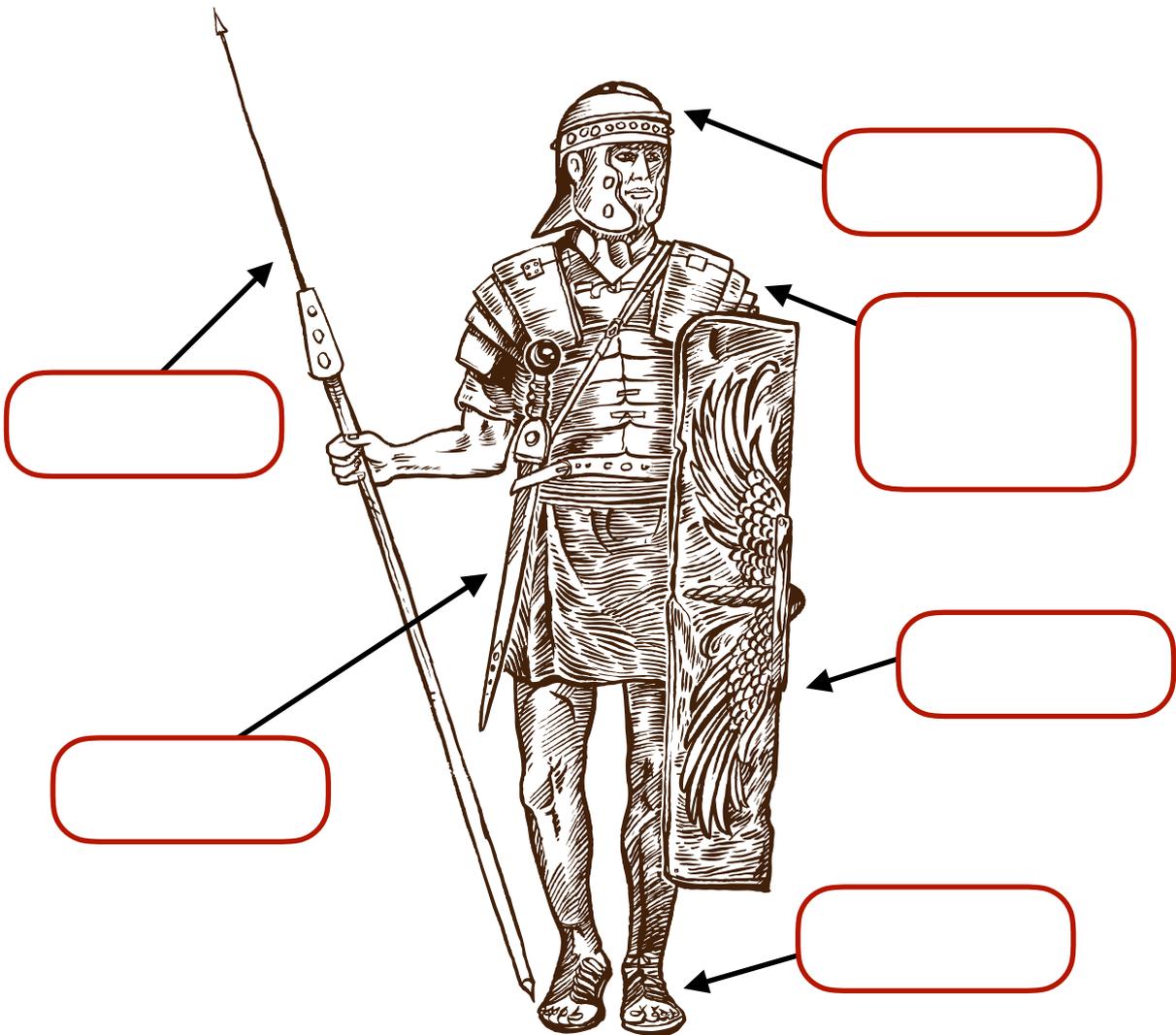
Name: _____

Date: _____



Use the following words to complete the labels on the picture of the Roman soldier below.

cassis (helmet)	lorica segmentata (body armour)		
scutum (shield)	caligae (sandals)	gladius (sword)	pilum (spear)



Why did the Romans invade Britain?
Discuss your answer with a partner.



Name: _____

Date: _____



First, read The Equipment of a Roman Soldier sheet. Then, use this information to label the picture of the Roman soldier below. Include a short explanation in your own words of each object.



How did the Romans successfully invade Britain?
Discuss your answer with a partner.





Which Roman emperor led the successful invasion of Britain?

How was the Roman body armour made to be flexible?



How many miles did a soldier walk in five hours as part of their training?



What was the difference between an auxiliary and a legionary soldier?



What might have happened if a soldier fell asleep whilst on duty?

Why did the scutum (shield) have a curved surface?



What was the difference between a centurion and a legate?



Why did the Romans build roads in Britain?



Why did the Romans want to invade Britain?

What was the Roman name for a helmet?



Describe the defensive formation called the testudo (tortoise).



Explain how a legion was formed.

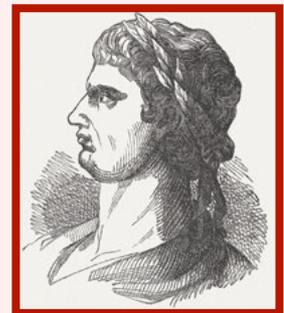


Why and how the Romans successfully invaded Britain



In the year 55 BC, **Julius Caesar** was emperor of Rome. The Romans wanted to expand their empire and gain more lands for themselves. Julius Caesar and the Roman army had conquered France not long before. The Britons (the people of Britain) had helped France to fight against the Romans. Caesar decided to try and conquer Britain too. He invaded Britain twice but both times was forced to retreat.

It wasn't until the year 43 AD (nearly a hundred years after Caesar's first attempt) that the Romans managed to conquer Britain. By this time, **Claudius** was emperor and he was keen to show everyone how strong and powerful he was. He took an army of 40,000 men to invade Britain and this time was successful.



One of the reasons that the Romans were able to conquer lots of different lands like Britain was because their army was so **large, strong** and **well-organised**. There were two main types of soldiers:

LEGIONARIES

These were Roman citizens over 17 years of age. They had to be extremely fit to join - anyone considered too weak or too short was rejected.

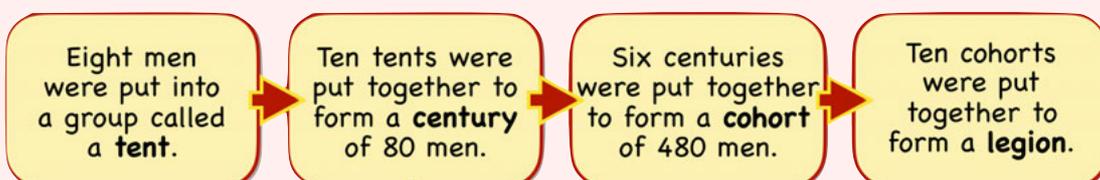
AUXILIARIES

These were non-Roman citizens from countries that the Romans had conquered. There were only paid one third of the wage of a legionary soldier.

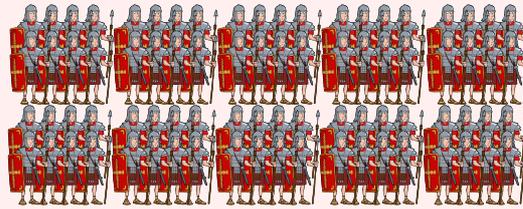


There were strict punishments for any soldier who didn't follow orders. If you fell asleep on duty, you could be sentenced to death!

The Roman army was made up of **legions** which had around 5000 men. Legions were organised in a very specific way:

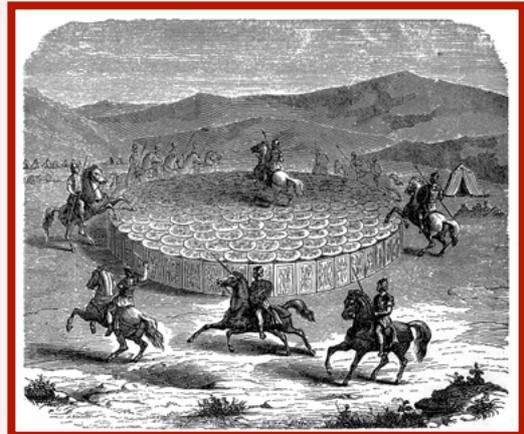


A **CENTURION** was in charge of a century. A **LEGATE** was in charge of a legion.



The Roman army's **training techniques** were constant and rigorous, so that they were ready for action at any time. They had to march 20 miles in five hours, carrying all of their equipment (including tents, food, cooking pots and weapons) and wearing their armour. The soldiers had daily weapons training with wooden swords and shields which were deliberately heavier than their real weapons.

Roman soldiers were very skilled at using certain techniques and manoeuvres to ensure they succeeded in battle. They believed that by keeping troops in order and working as a unit they would be able to fight more effectively. One of the most effective **defensive formations** was the tortoise (or 'testudo'). Soldiers would use their shields to create a roof and wall around themselves (a shell). This meant that it was virtually impossible for the enemy to cause injury.



When Roman soldiers were not at war, they helped to improve and increase the size of the towns they had conquered. They also built the first **roads** in Britain. This was so that the army could move their soldiers and equipment all around the country. Roman roads were usually straight, so that they could get to where they needed to go as quickly as possible. They were so well-built that you can still see the remains of some of them today, almost 2000 years later!

Scutum

This was a semi-circular **shield**. The curved surface helped to deflect weapons or objects thrown at the soldier. He carried it on his left-hand side.

Gladius

This was a light, short **sword**, around 50cm long. It was carried on the right-hand side of the body. A small dagger, called a **pugio**, was carried on the left-hand side.

Pilum

This was a throwing **spear**, around two metres long. It was designed to bend and stick in the enemies' shields. They were hard to pull out, so couldn't be thrown back.



Cassis

This was a helmet. It had a rim which protected the forehead. The back of the helmet had a guard to protect the neck from sword blows.

Lorica Segmentata

This was flexible, protective body armour made from overlapping pieces of iron. They were fastened together with leather strips.

Caligae

These were thick leather **sandals**. They were studded with hobnails along the bottom for marching long distances over rough ground.



Here's your chance to take part in the training exercises of the Roman army!

1. The Roman army is about control and discipline. There will be no talking, no laughing and no messing around. Punishments are severe for people who break the rules.

2. Working together is extremely important. Practise standing in straight lines, shoulder to shoulder, and taking steps forwards and backwards at exactly the same time. A soldier must know his left and right.

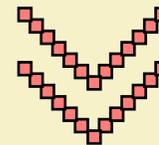
3. When the enemy attacks, we need to be able to defend ourselves. The tortoise will make us indestructible. Get into rows and use your shields as a shell. Practise getting in and out of the tortoise quickly.



4. The tortoise can be used to advance towards the enemy without getting hit by arrows. Practise moving forwards in the tortoise formation. Keep the gaps between the shields as small as possible. Gaps could let in the arrow that will kill you.

5. A Roman soldier needs to remember his position in all the different formations for the battle plan. Practise getting into the Pig's Head and Square formations:

Pig's head formation



Square formation

