

Roman Republican Legionary (107B.C. to 27B.C.)

Why not colour him in?

His helmet was probably bronze, (so use dark yellow or light orange).

As for the shield, well red was a popular colour... but it's up to you... as you are in charge of colouring!

Name _____

Class _____

Before the Romans lived under the rule of the emperors (The *Empire*) they were a *Republic*. In this time, power was shared by a group of people called the *Senate*, but two men who had the title of *Consuls* were in charge of the *Senators*.

In the early years of the *Republic*, Rome did not have a full-time army. It relied on getting an army together to fight in times of war.

There were different classes of soldiers that had different tasks. Most warriors brought their own weapons but because some were rich and some were poor... there were **big** differences in their equipment.

But in 107B.C. a Consul called Gaius Marius decided to give most of the soldiers weapons and armour that was made all in the same way (standardised).

Each soldier was given a dagger (*pugio*) and a sword (*gladius*). Also they were given a wooden staff called a *furca* to carry lots of equipment on their backs. They carried so much kit, as a result; the Roman soldiers were jokingly called 'The Mules of Marius' (a mule is a creature like a donkey and it is used to carry lots of equipment).

Their helmets were of a much more simple design than the later 'Imperial' soldiers' helmets. Their shields were also very big.

During the times of the **Later Roman Republic**, there were many wars, some were against foreign nations like Carthage and Gaul, but also there were terrible civil wars (When rival Roman leaders fought each other). In the end, dictators like Gaius Julius Caesar, tried to take over to calm things down. But this resulted in another series of civil wars and Caesar's murder. Finally, a leader called Octavian beat his rivals, changed his name to Augustus and had himself declared Rome's first Emperor in 27B.C.

Can you label the Republican soldier?

Use these words to help:

Cassis/Galea (helmet, bronze)

Lorica Hamata (ringmail body armour)

Focale (neck scarf)

Caligae (boots)

Pugio (dagger)

Scutum (shield)

Pilum (throwing spear)

Gladius (sword)

Tunic (garment made of wool or linen, worn under the armour).

Did you know? The helmet worn by the Republican soldiers is called The *Montefortino helmet*. It was used by both the Celts and the Romans. This helmet type is named after the region of *Montefortino* in Italy, where one was uncovered by archaeologists. (We do not know what the Romans called this helmet originally).

