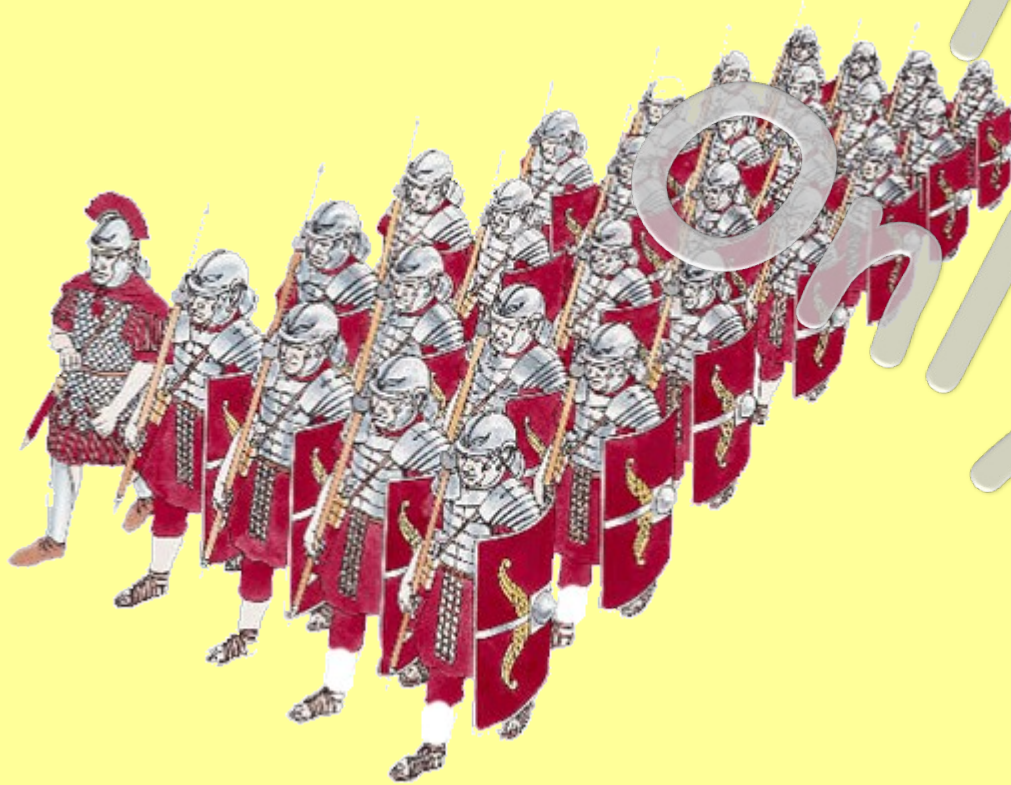




Introducing the Roman Army



The Romans invaded so many places because they had such a good army. Their reputation was fearsome. The army was used to protect Rome and to keep control over the people who they had conquered. Soldiers were in the army for many years and spent a long time away from their families.

Recruiting Soldiers

The Roman Army was very big. The Romans often had to recruit soldiers from people who lived in the conquered lands. When he had been in the army for 25 years he could become a Roman citizen.



Organising the Army

A legion would have 800 legionnaires, who would be already Roman citizens. Each legion would be split up into groups called centuries. In each century were 80 soldiers. The leader of the century was called a centurion.

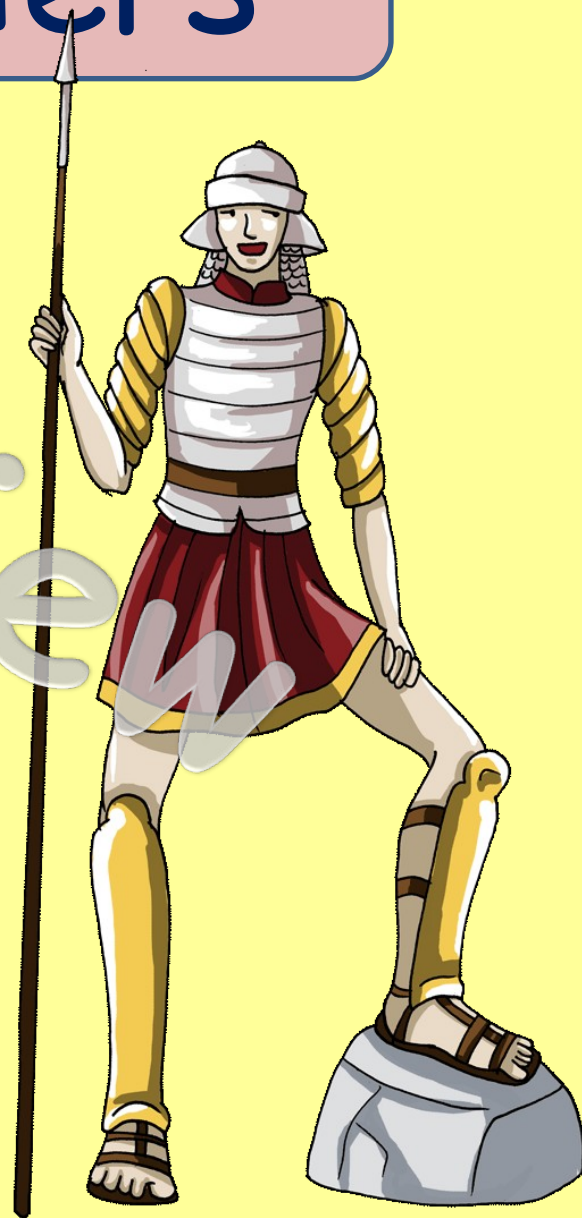


These centuries would also be split into smaller groups and they had different jobs to perform. This made the Romans battle tactics more organised.



Strong Soldiers

Roman soldiers were very strong and tough, they had to march over 20 miles a day with heavy things to carry. They had to carry their food, cooking pots, tents and weapons as well as wearing all their armour.





Weapons and Tactics



The Roman soldier was very well trained. When their enemies fired their arrows they would put their shields up all around them to protect themselves from the arrows, this was called the tortoise. They used a short sword as a weapon, daggers for stabbing and a long spear. They wore metal armour and protected themselves with a large shield. _