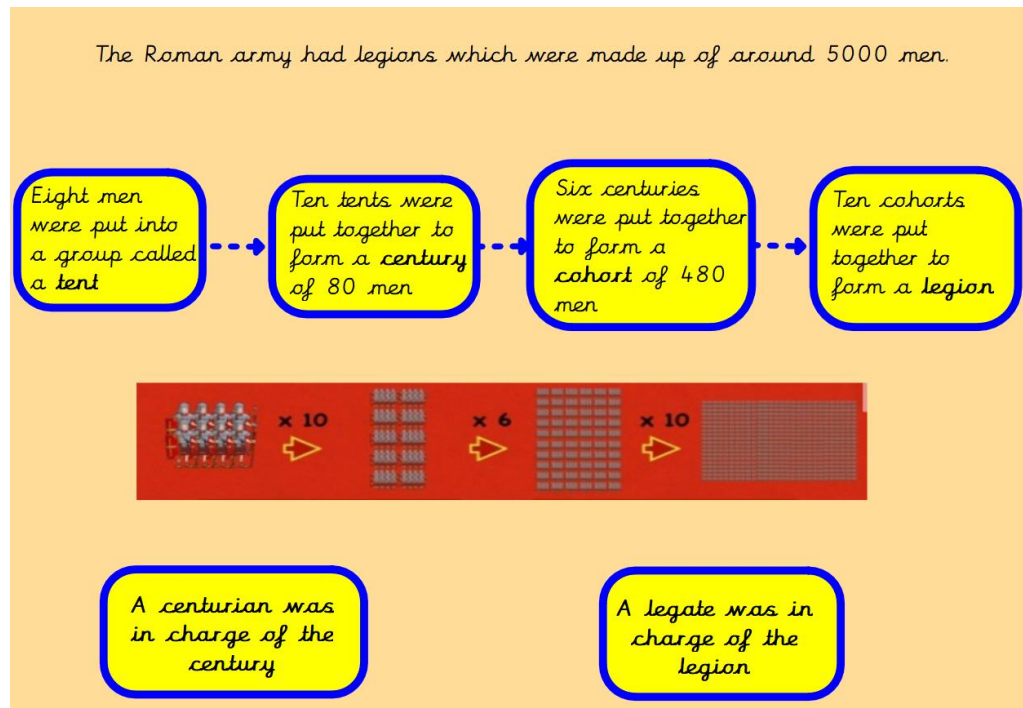


Army Formation



Daily Life

The legions were made up of recommended Roman citizens. Recruits had to be 25 and in the army for at least 20 years.

Legionaries were not allowed to be married whilst they were in the army.

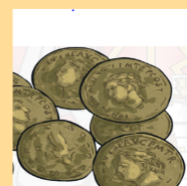
Not all soldiers were Roman citizens. Others could join as an auxiliary. Auxiliaries often had special skills such as horse riding and archery. The auxiliary soldiers would receive citizenship when they retired.

Discipline was very harsh. Soldiers were beaten if they did not follow orders.

Deserters and soldiers who left their post or fell asleep whilst on look-out were beaten to death by their fellow soldiers.

On a more positive note, there were awards for bravery for different ranks, such as medals, arm and neck bands. Gold crowns and silver spears were given to officers.

As well as fighting battles, the legions built forts, bridges and roads.



Training

Roman soldiers learned how to build camps, swim and sling stones.

They had to learn how to ride, mount and dismount horses fully armed with his shield and no stirrups.

They had to complete a drill once a day or twice if he was a new recruit.

They had to march 30km, three times a month, wearing his armour which weighed 20kg.

They had to learn how to use a sword, a spear and fight mock battles which had covered tips for safety.

Army formations



The Tortoise was used to advance towards the enemy by creating a shell out of shields around a group of soldiers.



The Wedge was used to divide the enemy by the legion creating a 'V'.



The Repel Cavalry was used to protect against soldiers on horses. Soldiers used their shield as protection and threw spears.



The Orb was used when the army had been split. The legionaries would protect the archers and officers.

Uniform and weapons

A Roman soldier wore armour made from strips of iron and leather (lorica segmentata in Latin). On his head was a metal helmet (galea). He carried a rectangular shield (scutum), curved so it protected his body. The shield was made of wood and leather.

The soldier's main weapons were a short sword for stabbing (gladius) and a long spear, or javelin (pilum) for throwing. The javelin had a sharp iron point, and a thin, bendy shaft. When it hit an enemy's shield, the point stuck in, but the shaft bent. This made it difficult to pull out. The long spear shaft got in the way, so the enemy soldier had to throw away his shield.

Uniform and Weapons

Roman Legionary

Javelin - 2 metres long and made out of wood with a metal tip

Sword - About 5cm wide and 50cm long

Tunic - Was made of wool that would keep soldiers warm

Sandals - Made of leather they would withstand hours of marching



Helmet - Protects the head without blocking the view

Metal Jacket - metal strips tied together with leather.

Belt - Sword and dagger were attached to the belt

Shield - Made of wood this was used for protection