

ROMAN MILITARY

The Roman Military was one to be feared. It would be mostly built up by foot soldiers. Many famous leaders were triumphant in wars. Many of Rome's wars were fought for more land to expand Rome's borders. The Romans had many Civil wars to fight for their own perspectives and beliefs. Many hated the Romans for the ever so many wars they fought, and in the end Rome was defeated by tribes of barbarians that later settled in parts of the empire. Many people ask if Rome could have fought so many wars. What led them to success? Read to find out.

By Eric and Ryan ☺



Why is this topic historically significant? Because most of the tactics were used in wars and most of Rome's wars were because they needed to expand and the area around them was already settled on. They were so to say squished in between to pieces of bread and could not move. Rome needed a lot of land because they were a big empire this is why this is historically significant. I hope this makes sense.

Roman War Engineers

Roman war engineers were crucial to Rome's Military success. They made war machines for the Roman military. This made them technologically advanced. This gave Rome its edge in fights. Having a catapult to back you up is quite handy. The engineers made something called an **Onager** it had the same function as a catapult but would have more power.

Key words

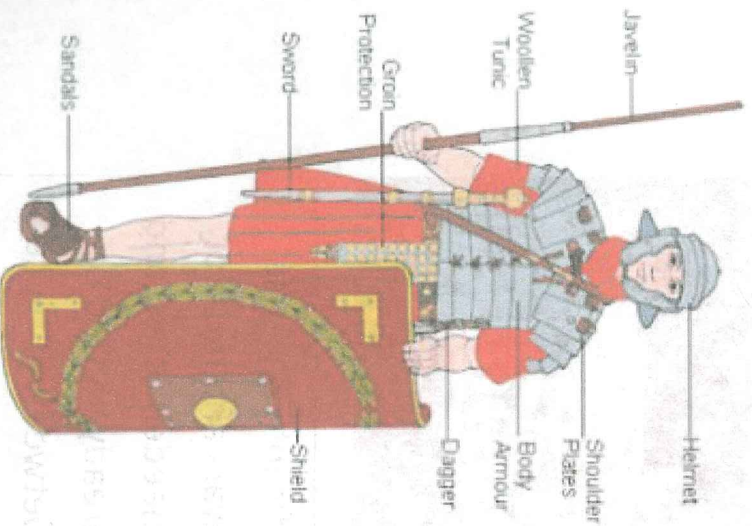
Onager – A Catapult

Legionary –Roman

Foot Soldier

Gladius –Latin word for sword

LEGIONARIES



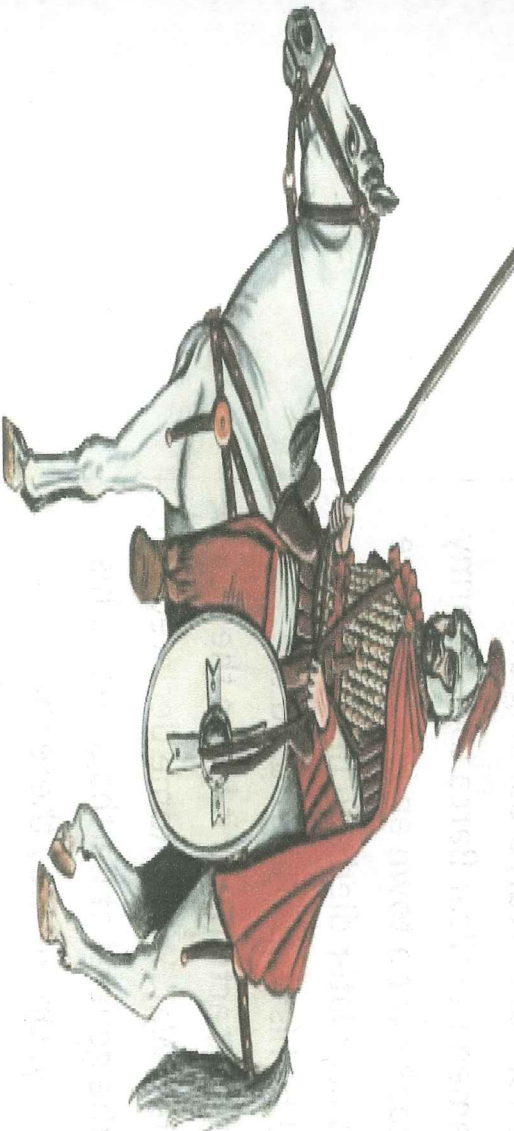
LEGIONARY

Legionaries were groups of citizens who joined the Roman military. The expectations for a legionary were that he had to be well-disciplined. **Legionaries** were organized into legions which included approximately **500 legionaries**. **Legionaries** had javelins, daggers, full body armor, sandals, and a **gladius**. Legions were grouped in centuries. **Legionaries** lived and trained in camps and barracks. They had many purposes in wars. They would flank enemies, to strengthen weaker units or to charge into battle. There were Rome's infantry.

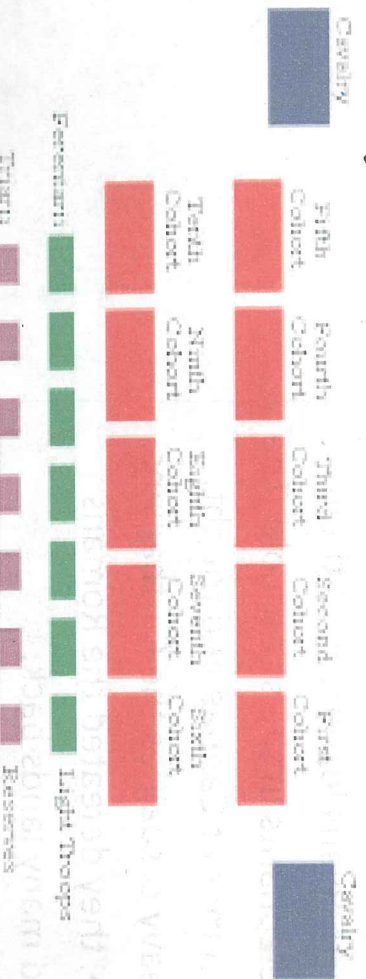
TACTICS

The Romans had very good tactics in war. They would have a similar strategy each time. Each battle line would include about 10,000 soldiers placed in a 1,500 by 12 yard rectangle. Each soldier would have around 3 feet of space, so not a lot of room if you were in a big fight. The general would be on the right side of the battle field. The cavalry would always be on the left and right wings in the front to flank the enemy. If say they were to weaken then some foot soldiers would come in to strengthen the unit. There was a common tactic called the Wedge. It was used by attack legionaries. The legionaries would form a triangle and charge at the enemy head on! There was a tactic also called the Saw which was opposite of the Wedge in the fact that instead of charging in with the tip in the front they would charge with the bottom of the triangle. This was a detached unit from the main battle line. There was also a tactic called the Skirmishing formation. It was great for mobility purposes. This tactic had many uses such as flanking the enemy or to support other units. These were some of Rome's common military tactics.

ROMAN CAVALRY



WAR SETUP



Battles that

expanded the

Roman Empire

THE PUNIC WARS

264BC-146BC

The Punic Wars were a long series of wars between Rome and Carthage, a large city on the coast of North Africa.

Many of the wars were fought in Italy and many islands near Rome. These wars were crucial to Rome because they helped expand their borders.

SECOND PUNIC

WAR

After the First Punic War, a Carthagian

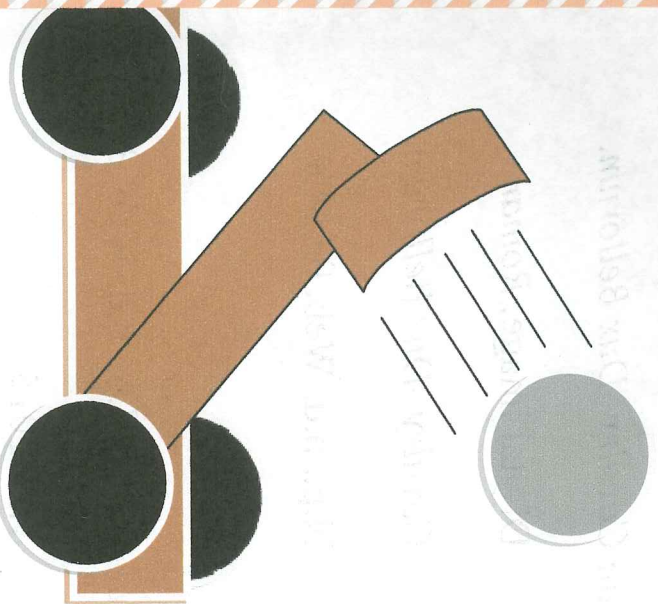
general named Hamilcar Barca took an army to Spain, took over a town and set up a base there. Hamilcar later died and his control was succeeded by his sons. This caused the Romans to take action and it led to the Second Punic War. When Rome declared war, Hannibal the general of Carthage led all his forces to Italy. On the way there the Carthagians met Roman resistance but it was easily crushed. While they continued their journey the Carthagians lost many of their men and war elephants in the sheer cold. The two forces then met at Cannae and fought. Despite the heavy casualties the Carthagians had overcome, they defeated the Romans and conquered many lands back.

FIRST PUNIC WAR

The First Punic War occurred at Messina, Sicily when a group of mercenary soldiers established in the city requested help from Rome and Carthage. When the mercenaries were attacked by forces of Hiero II of Syracuse, both Carthage and Rome responded at the request. Both sides sent forces to Syracuse only to fight each other in the process for control of Syracuse. The final battle was on March 10th, 241BC when Rome defeated Carthage by gaining control over sea power. Carthage was then forced to withdraw their force from Sicily and other islands and yield them to Rome.

THE THIRD PUNIC WAR

The third war began in 149 B.C and ended in 146 B.C for a total of a three year war. It began because many of the Roman politicians hated the Carthage and wanted them destroyed. Carthage knew this and it soon lead to the third Punic war. A roman army was sent into Africa to destroy Carthage, though the pray for peace and wanted no war they were forced to fight to survive. An attack on Carthage lasted two whole years to no prevail. Until in 147 BC Scipio Aemilianus commanded an army of Rome to attack from the harbour side. This would be the final turning point in the last war. Going through each house the Romans overpowered Carthage and victory was claimed by Rome. The land soon became part of a Roman Province. So that was the last war Carthage and Rome ever fought

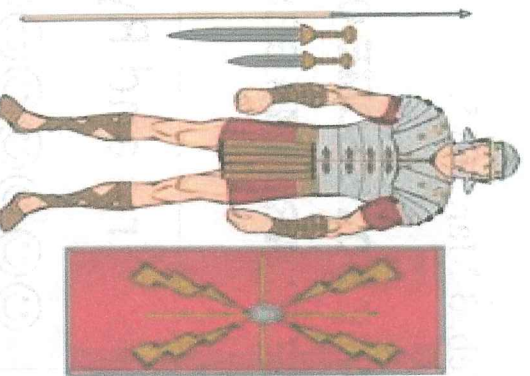


ACTIVITIES

~Try building a model of an Onager out of house hold supplies. Make it function like one. If you do try to knock down some paper cups with it.

~Take the picture on the left. Try to label all the armor pieces on the **Legionary**.

~Try to make a Comic using words found on the pages.



Questions:

1. When did Carthage Fall?
2. When did the 3 wars in total start and when did they end?
3. Which one of the Roman tactics was the best for mobility?
4. What is a way to define a legionary?

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