

Javelin - Before charging into battle, a Roman legionary would hurl his spear into the ranks of the enemy.

The spear was known as a *pilum* and was made from wood with a sharp iron spike at the end.

Did you know?

The long spike at the end was designed to lodge in an enemy's shield, so they couldn't use it anymore.

Sword- A Roman soldier's trusty sword was called a gladius.

It was quite small and light, which made it good for stabbing and slashing in battle.

Did you know?

Roman soldiers wore their swords on the right at first. But by the AD300s most Romans wore their swords on the left.

Body armour was made from overlapping iron plates held together by leather straps and brass clasps.

The armour was heavy and very tough so a legionary would wear a tunic underneath for padding.

Did you know?

A legionary had to march all day carrying his armour and weapons. Together with his cooking pots and tools, a soldier's equipment could weigh around 35kg.

Roman legionaries carried a large rectangular shield known as a *scutum*.

This was curved to help protect the soldier's body and it had a hard iron bulge in the middle for battering their enemies in battle.

Did you know?

Soldiers would lift their shields over their heads for protection when fired at from above. They looked like a tortoise, so they called this formation the *testudo* (Latin for tortoise).

Tunic -

Underneath their armour, a Roman soldier wore a woollen tunic.

This was probably coloured red or white. The colour may have related to the soldier's rank.

Did you know?

Soldiers often wore a scarf called a focale too. This protected their neck from rubbing up against their armour.

sandals

Roman army boots were called caligae. They were like sandals but much stronger. They were made from leather and had little iron studs on the soles.

Did you know?

The iron studs on a Roman soldier's sandals meant that it was easy to slip when running on wet stones!

Armour

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Did you know?

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Helmet - A Roman soldier's helmet was called a galea. It had special guards to protect their cheeks and neck.

Soldiers could also attach a crest made of horse hair to the top of their helmets. However, ordinary legionaries probably didn't wear this in battle. Historians think that it was just used for parades and formal ceremonies.