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| **Roman Empire - Investigate a Roman Soldier** | |
| Cartoon head of Julius Caesar | The Roman Empire grew so quickly because of its large and skilful army. A soldier's life was very tough, they were well armed and trained for dangerous battles. Let's find out what they wore. |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | A Cartoon Drawing of a Metal Jacket | **Metal Jacket**  This flexible armour was made up of metal strips held together with metal ties. They were so heavy that soldiers had to help each other to put them on. | | A Cartoon Drawing of a Red Tunic | **Tunic**  The tunic was worn underneath the armour. This was made of rough wool and reached down to the middle of the thigh. It was not until later that short trousers were worn down below! | | A Cartoon Drawing of Leather Sandals | **Sandals (caligae)**  These sandals were designed to help the Romans march for long distances. They were strong, well ventilated and allowed the soldiers to march very quickly. The sandals often had metal studs at the bottom to make them last longer. | | A Cartoon Drawing of a Metal Belt | **A Belt (cingulum)**  The decorated leather strips gave protection during a battle. These belts jangled as the army marched to scare the enemy. The most important soldiers wore the nicest, most expensive belts. | | A Cartoon Drawing of a Sword and Leather Strap | **A Sword (Gladius)**  This short sword was also called a 'Gladius' and it was a terrible stabbing weapon. The soldiers could use them easily in the crush of a battle. | | A Cartoon of a Soldier's Equipment Pack | **Equipment**  Each man had a heavy pack with a tool kit, a dish and a pan. The pack held personal items and 3 day's food rations. They may have also carried things like a cloak and a leather bottle for water or wine. | | A Cartoon of a Centurion's Helmet and Crest | **Helmet**  Centurions and other Officers wore crests on the top of their helmets so that the other men could follow them in battle. The helmets helped to protect the head, face and neck in a battle. | | A Cartoon of a Javelin | **A Javelin**  These had a sharp point to pierce shields and armour. Groups of soldiers would throw their javelins through the air at the same time in order to break the enemies charge. |  |  | | --- | |  | | |