

# DESIGN A ROMAN MILITARY APRON

## UNDERSTANDING HOW A ROMAN SOLDIER PROTECTED HIMSELF

### Introduction activity

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Look at the BBC Roman site located [here](#) and discuss the armour and the weapons that the soldiers wore when they were engaged in battle.

Explain that we also know what the soldier would have worn when they were not fighting and watch the video clip showing the military apron which describes its use, how it was made and the materials it was made from.

Explain that the soldier still wanted to be seen as a powerful soldier even when not wearing full armour and this skirt represented their role and status.

### Main part of the lesson

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Discuss the clothing worn by the Roman soldiers.

The basic items of a Roman soldiers clothing, with some of their Latin names (in brackets) detailed in the following list:

- The loincloth
- Socks (udones)
- Trousers (braccae)
- Military tunic (tunica) - short or long-sleeved
- Military belt (cingulum militare)
- Apron/skirt of decorated leather strips
- Armour - corselet (lorica segmentata)
- Armour - helmet (galea)
- Armour - segmented arm protector (manica)
- Cloak (sagum)
- Hooded Cloak (paenula)
- Scarf (focale)
- Military sandals or boots (caligae)

Explain that you would like the class to design their own Roman military skirt.

Look at the image of the military apron that was worn by the soldiers over the underskirt or tunic.



Explain that the pupil's design of the skirt will involve designing different symmetrical designs for the studs or discs that are on the military apron.

Explain that these studs are the part of the Roman army uniform that we still find in Roman London because they fell off easily over 2000 years ago and would have got lost and buried.

Pupils design their own discs and army skirt.

## Plenary

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Watch the 'replica dagger' video clip and discuss why the soldier would wear the dagger and what it represented.