

INVESTIGATING THE ARMOUR OF A ROMAN SOLDIER

UNDERSTANDING HOW A ROMAN SOLDIER PROTECTED HIMSELF

Introduction activity

Watch the video clip 'replica helmet' which shows details of the Roman army helmet and some footage of a Roman re-enactment in July 2011.

Ask the class to recall from the video what the key safety features of the helmet were - features that would help the soldier to be safe from attack.

List the features together as a piece of shared writing.

Main part of the lesson

Pupils use the 'Roman helmet resource' and the features of Word (2007) to insert arrows and text boxes to label the key safety features of the helmet as shown in the 'replica helmet' video. If you do not have access to Word 2007 pupils can insert text in their usual way.

Pupils can then use the 'Roman soldier full armour resource' to repeat the above activity but this time thinking for themselves, using the provided image as a clue, as to what other safety features the full armour has.

Also view the legionary soldier and auxiliary soldier images on the Romans in London site for added discussion of key features of the armour and the different safety features displayed in these two uniforms.



Ask pairs of pupils to evaluate and discuss each other's completed resources to check for accuracy and to share their chosen text and layout.

Each pupil to give feedback on each other's resource with one thing they like about the finished resource and one thing they would change.

Plenary

Pupils explain what safety features they deduced from the image of the full armour. Pairs report back on their feedback session.

Watch the video that describes the padding that was placed inside the helmet and discuss the padding element of the helmet which made it more comfortable to wear.

Remind the class that we are discussing things that happened over 2000 years ago and all these key elements of safety and comfort may have been ahead of their time.