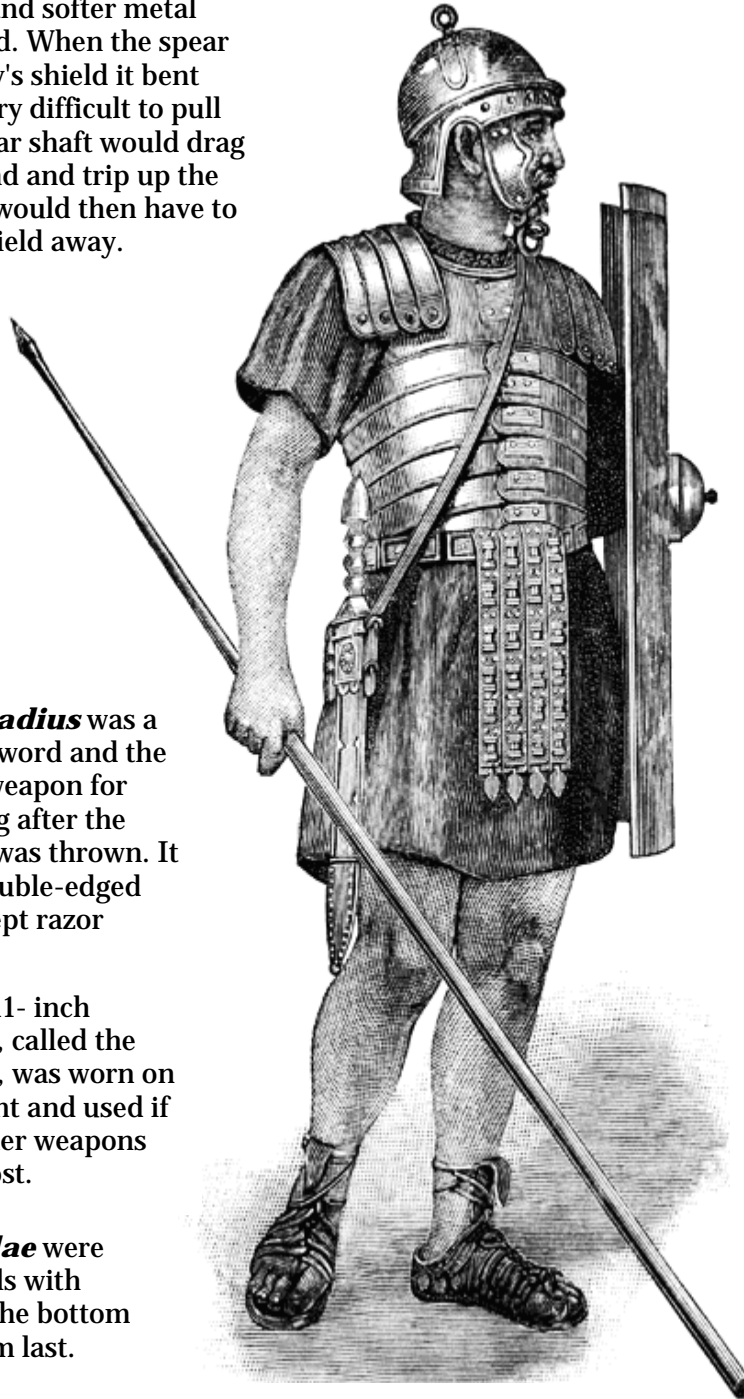


The Roman Legionary

The Roman Legionary or foot soldier was the main part of the Roman army.

- A **pilum** was made with sharp iron points and softer metal shafts behind. When the spear hit an enemy's shield it bent making it very difficult to pull out. The spear shaft would drag on the ground and trip up the enemy who would then have to throw his shield away.
- He wore chest armor called a **lorica**, made from overlapping iron bands or chain mail and a metal helmet (**galea**) on his head.
 - The **gladius** was a short sword and the main weapon for fighting after the pilum was thrown. It was double-edged and kept razor sharp.
 - A 7 to 11- inch dagger, called the **pugio**, was worn on the right and used if the other weapons were lost.
- The **caligulae** were heavy sandals with hobnails in the bottom to make them last.



- He was tough, disciplined, and well-trained. Roman soldiers were expected to march 20 miles a day wearing armor and carrying their shield, food, and camp equipment. All this could weigh 90 pounds or more. Then they would spend 3 to 4 hours building a fortified camp each day.
- The large rectangular shield, called the **scutum**, curved around the body and weighed about 15 pounds.
- Soldiers marched into battle in a flexible line with their shields next to each other. If the enemy shot arrows at them the soldiers in the rows behind the front line would lift their shields over their heads like a roof to protect them. This was called a **testudo**, which means tortoise.



The testudo

- **Great Web Links on the Roman Legionary:**

<http://www.murphsplace.com/gladiator/legions.html> Pictures of a soldier's gear.

<http://www.roman-empire.net/army/army-pictures.html> Many pictures of Roman soldiers

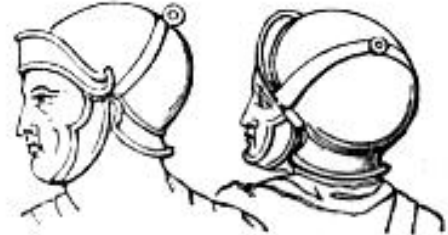
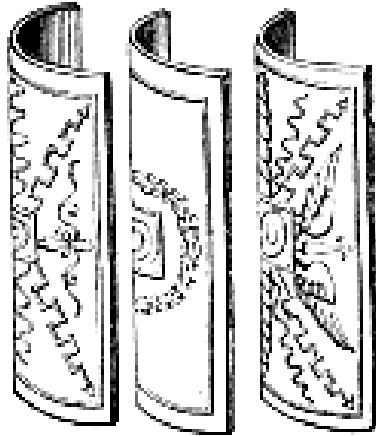
<http://www.legionxxiv.org/> Click on the links to find pictures of gear, etc.

<http://www.schoolsliaison.org.uk/kids/siteactivities/romandress.pdf> Print and dress a Roman soldier paper doll.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRnz6zB_KEE&NR Watch a short video of the testudo.

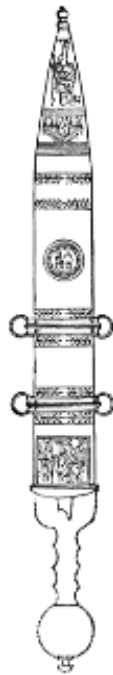
Equipment of Roman Soldiers

- Write the Latin name of the soldier's equipment in the blanks.



1. _____

2. _____



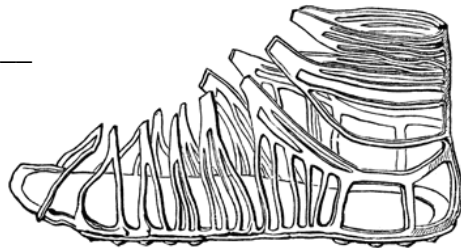
4. _____

5. _____



3. _____

6. _____



7. _____