

HAIL CAESAR!

Soldier - Prepare yourself for the battle ahead, for we are at war with any who stand against the Roman Empire! Be strong and you will drink down the sweet taste of victory. Be weak and you will taste the bitter poison of defeat! Brother, a hero's welcome awaits you, but only if you do not die like a diseased dog.

So then soldier, are you hungry for the taste of glory? Good, then the battle is already ours and victory is upon our lips!

Hail Caesar!



A ROMAN SOLDIER'S CHECKLIST:

1. A helmet made from either leather or metal, sometimes both. ✓
2. Body armour – a bronze or iron breastplate with leather straps, worn over a fine woollen tunic. ✓
3. Leather sandals – stuffed with wool during the winter months. ✓
4. A thick woollen cloak – again for use during the harsh winter time.
5. Wooden shield – soaked in water before a battle so that it won't catch alight. ✓
6. 2 javelins (with metallic tips) to hurl at your enemy as they approach you. ✓
7. Small sharp dagger – kept in a leather scabbard with either a wooden or bone grip. ✓
8. A longer double-edged sword – again, a scabbard is necessary in order to keep this weapon safe. ✓
9. 15 days' supply of grain. ✓
10. Cooking pot.
11. 2 stakes - for building a protective fence surrounding your camp. ✓
12. Pick or shovel to dig with. ✓
13. A double-headed axe. ✓

Hail Caesar!

Glossary

Word	Definition
Roman Empire	the countries ruled by the Romans
tunic	a long top
scabbard	a sword cover worn on a belt

Vocabulary Starter

Word	Definition
hail	
taste of glory	

1

What does the officer call the soldier? Why?

_____ because _____

2

Find the words 'victory' and 'defeat'. Copy the phrase which is used to describe each one.

victory: _____

defeat: _____

3

Why does the author choose to describe them in these ways?

4

Do you think Caesar was:

Tick one

A foot soldier

An army officer

The Emperor

5

Why do you think this?

6

Who do you think gave the speech at the start of the text?

Tick one

A foot soldier

An army officer

Caesar

7

Why do you think this?

8

'Are you ready for battle?'

How do you think the soldier responds to this question?

9

Tick whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
The soldiers had four weapons each.		
The soldiers were prepared for all weathers.		
The only protection they had was shield.		
They carried enough food for a month.		

Why do you think the Roman Empire was so successful?

Extension
activity

Roman soldiers were hard to defeat because _____

Roman soldiers were hard to defeat but _____

Roman soldiers were hard to defeat so _____
