

Make a Roman Shield

What will I need?

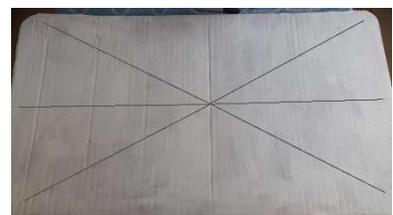
- A pencil
- A marker pen
- A ruler
- Strong scissors
- Strong glue or double-sided tape
- Paintbrush
- Paint (red, yellow, white or your choice)
- A large piece of cardboard
- A foil takeaway container

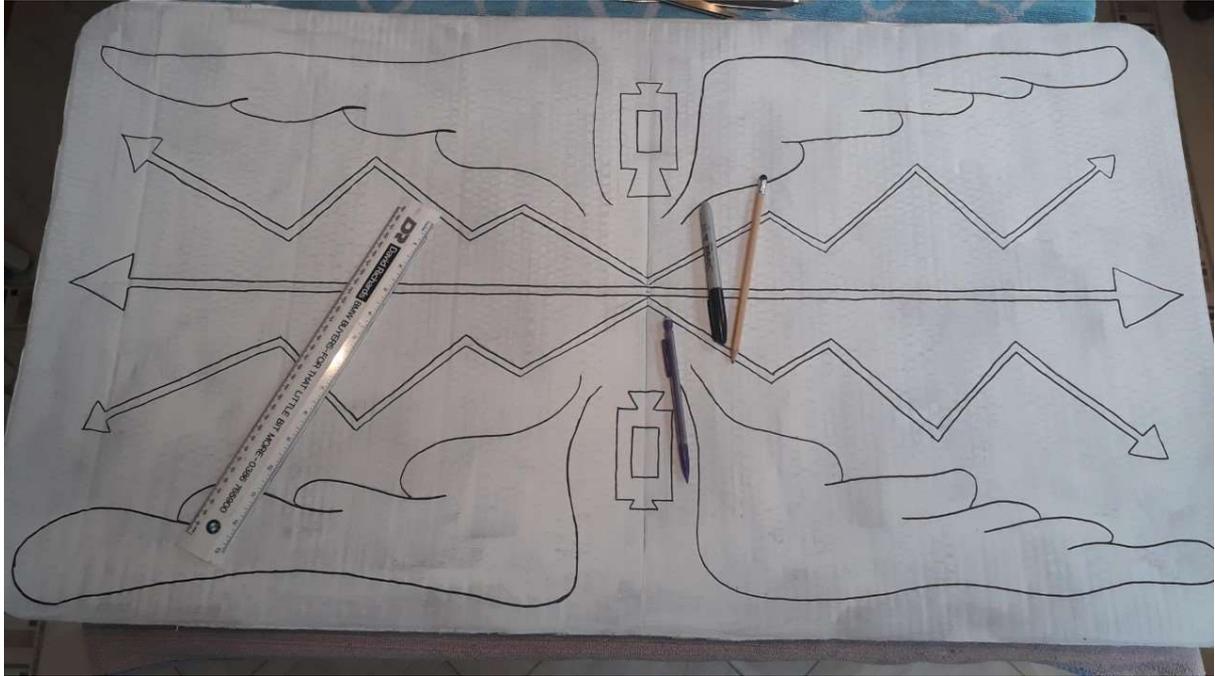
Top Tip!

Put an old towel down to protect the surface you are working on.

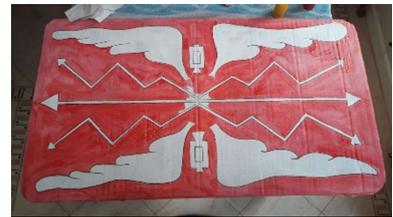
What do I do?

1. Cut the cardboard into a rectangle the size you want. As a rough guide, an adult sized shield would be about 1m tall, while a child's shield would be about 50cm tall.
2. Round the corners of your cardboard and then paint it with white paint or primer. If you're using bare cardboard, most colours will not stand out well unless you do this first. Red is okay, but yellow will look a bit sad!
3. Once the paint is dry, pencil in some lines to help map out your design.
4. You can then start embellishing it. The design can be anything you like, but this shield will give you an idea of what the Romans did.

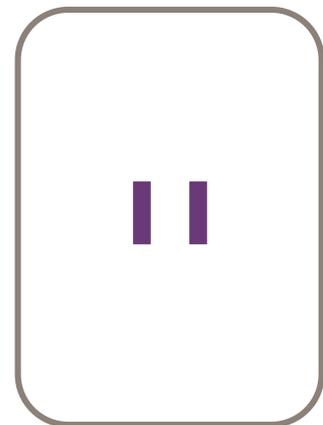


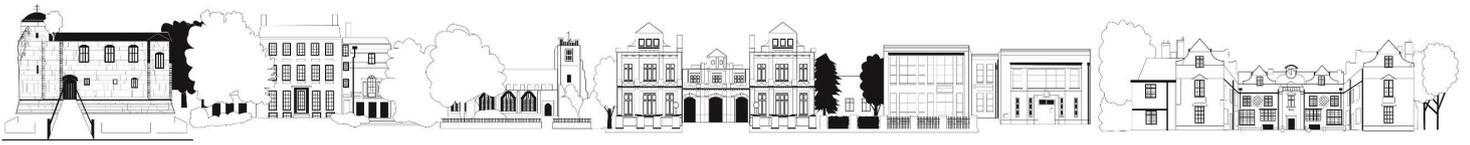


5. Once your design is finished, you are ready to start painting. Don't worry about the centre of your shield, as that part will be covered by the 'boss'.



6. Once your paint is dry, you will need to make some arm straps for the back. Cut cardboard into strips, then fold and glue/ tape each end to the back of your shield to make a loop. They should be positioned around the centre and make sure they are big enough to fit your arm through!





7. The last detail is gluing / taping the foil takeaway container to the front of your shield, to act as the 'boss'. Historically, this would have protected your hand.



8. You are now ready for battle, but you may need to kit out any reinforcements... Don't forget to take a picture and share it on social media, tagging @Colmuseums on Twitter or @ColchesterCastle on facebook.

