

# Make a Roman Sword

## What will I need?

- A pencil
- A ruler
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Cardboard
- Paper (paper bag, tissue paper, newspaper)
- Foil or paint (optional)

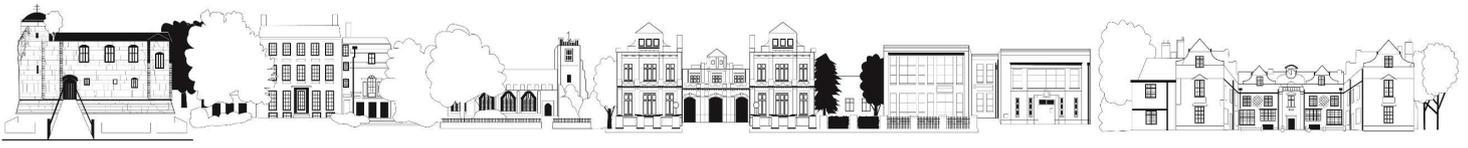
### Did you know?

The Roman gladius that the legionary (foot) soldiers used was a short, wide blade, designed for stabbing.

## What do I do?

1. To make the blade, cut out two lengths of cardboard 40cm long and 7.5cm wide. Stick the two pieces together with glue or tape, but leave one end unstuck, as you will need to insert the handle here later. Putting two pieces of cardboard together should strengthen your blade.
2. Trim the end that is stuck together into a point.
3. To make the handguard, cut out another two pieces of cardboard around 14cm long and 5cm wide. Once again, having two pieces will make the handguard stronger and more stable.
4. Cut a slit 7.5cm wide in the middle of both pieces. The hole must be the same width as the blade. Too wide, your hand guard will slip.
5. It's now time to join the two parts. Take the handguard pieces, slide them onto the blade and position them near the non-pointy end. You may want to stick these two pieces together once they are in position – see how secure it feels.





6. To make the sword handle, cut another two pieces of cardboard, approximately 20cm long and 5cm wide. The pieces need to be long enough to fit around 5cm into the open end of the sword, with space for your whole hand to hold the rest, plus a bit more at the end for the hilt. You can always trim any excess once you're happy.



7. Stick the two pieces of cardboard together then insert them into the sword. You may need to use some glue or tape to secure the handle in place.

8. You're almost there. Get your paper, fold it in half over the sword handle and stick it onto the handle with a bit of tape. Then tease up the edges of the paper into a ball over the top of the sword handle.



9. When you've got a ball shape, secure it in place by wrapping tape around it. This bit can be tricky, so take your time.

10. You could cover the blade in silver foil (as you can see, we ran out!) Or you could paint it. Anyone fancy a sword with orange flames down the blade? (That's what we would have done if we had any paint!) The Romans would have kept their sword plain and efficient, but there's no reason why you should.



11. You now have your very own training sword. It is not for hitting your brother, mum, baby sister, or the cat! Don't forget to take a picture and share it on social media, tagging @Colmuseums on Twitter or @ColchesterCastle on facebook.