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7+ English and Verbal Reasoning

Developing Skills · Book 1

Unit 2: The Roman Army

Inside this sample

p. 2	Unit opener: The Roman Army
p. 3	Word sort: Roman Army vocabulary
p. 4	Reading comprehension: The Mighty Roman Army
p. 5	Comprehension questions 3 to 8
p. 6	Creative writing: a legionary's diary, with picture prompts
p. 7	Verbal reasoning: odd one out, rhymes and analogies
p. 8	Answers and guidance for every question

1 Print

Print on A4 at home. Every page fits the sheet, so choose "Fit to page" if your printer asks.

2 Have a go

Let your child work through the pages at their own pace. Allow 30 to 40 minutes.

3 Check together

Use the answers on page 8 and talk through anything that went wrong.

About the book

A ten-unit workbook for children preparing for the 7+ entrance exam in Year 2. Every unit is built around one theme and moves from a warm-up to reading comprehension, creative writing and verbal reasoning, so reading, writing and reasoning skills grow together.

Find out more about the full book at novaeducation.uk

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Unit 2

The Roman Army

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Activity 2: Word Sort

Look at the list of words in the word bank below.

Legionary Armour Helmet Shield
Road Formation Fort Discipline
Knight Pistol Castle Tank

Sort the words into two categories:

Words I think belong to the Roman Army	Words that do not

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Section 1: Reading Comprehension

Below is a reading passage about the Roman army. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions which follow.

The Mighty Roman Army

The mighty Roman Army was one of the best armies in history. A Roman soldier was called a legionary. He wore strong, heavy armour and a metal helmet to stay safe. He also carried a large, curved shield for protection. Legionaries marched for miles in perfect, straight lines called formations. Their strict discipline made them a powerful fighting force. When they weren't battling, some soldiers guarded busy forts. Others used their strength to build strong, straight roads across the empire.

Activity 3: Comprehension Questions

1 What did a Roman soldier carry for protection?

A) A sword and a spear ☐
B) A map and compass ☐
C) A heavy backpack ☐
D) A large, curved shield ☐

2 Find and copy the word from the passage that means "very strict rules and training".

_____

_____

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3 What was a Roman soldier called?

4 Why was it important for soldiers to march in formations?

A) It helped them walk faster. ☐
B) It made them look taller. ☐
C) It made them a powerful and organised army. ☐
D) It helped them carry heavier things. ☐

5 What does the word "mighty" mean in this passage?

A) Very small ☐
B) Very strong and powerful ☐
C) Very old ☐
D) Very kind ☐

6 Name two jobs a Roman soldier did when he was not fighting.

7 What does the passage tell you about the roads the Romans built?

8 If you found a Roman helmet, what would you do with it?

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Section 2: Creative Writing

Activity 5: A Day in the Life

Look at the picture of the young legionary. Write a diary entry for this Roman soldier's day. Describe what he did and how he felt.

Writing Guide

Use any of the following sentence starters to help you write your diary entry.

- Dear Diary, today was my first day as a legionary! It began...
- The heaviest thing I had to carry was...
- Marching in a straight line was difficult because...
- After marching, we had to...
- At the end of the day, I felt...

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Section 3: Verbal Reasoning

Activity 7: Reasoning and Logic

1 Circle the word that does not belong with the others. Think about the theme.

shield sword road armour helmet

2 Draw a line to match the words that rhyme.

march	gold
fight	light
bold	arch

3 Complete the second pair so it matches the first.

Chef is to kitchen as soldier is to _____.

A) Battle ☐
B) Fort ☐
C) Home ☐
D) Sword ☐

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Answers

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For the adult checking this work. Talk through any wrong answer before showing the answer below. Open questions have no single right answer: look for a sensible answer backed by the text.

Question	Answer and guidance
Activity 2 Word sort	**Roman Army:** legionary, armour, helmet, shield, road, formation, fort, discipline. **Not the Roman Army:** knight, pistol, castle, tank. Knight is the tricky one: a knight was a soldier, but from about a thousand years after the Romans.
Q1 What did a Roman soldier carry for protection?	**D)** A large, curved shield
Q2 Word meaning "very strict rules and training"	**discipline** "Their strict discipline made them a powerful fighting force."
Q3 What was a Roman soldier called?	**A legionary**
Q4 Why march in formations?	**C)** It made them a powerful and organised army
Q5 What does "mighty" mean?	**B)** Very strong and powerful
Q6 Two jobs when not fighting	**They guarded forts and built roads.** Both jobs are needed.
Q7 What does the passage tell you about Roman roads?	**They were strong and straight, and built across the empire.**
Q8 If you found a Roman helmet…	**Any sensible answer with a reason** For example: "I would give it to a museum so other people could learn about the Romans."

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Answers (continued)

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Question	Answer and guidance
Activity 5 A Day in the Life (diary)	**Open writing task.** Look for: writing as "I"; events from different parts of the day; two or three words from the word bank; how the legionary felt.
Activity 7, Q1 Odd one out: shield, sword, road, armour, helmet	**road** The others are things a soldier wears or carries.
Activity 7, Q2 Match the rhymes	**march – arch, fight – light, bold – gold**
Activity 7, Q3 Chef is to kitchen as soldier is to…	**B)** Fort A chef works in a kitchen; a soldier lives and works in a fort.

Want to go further?

The Teacher's Guide for this book has teaching notes, discussion prompts and support and stretch ideas for every activity in all ten units.

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