

# Reliable Romans: centurion



This simple craft allows you to make one Roman centurion or an army of them!

**To make a centurion, you will need:** felt or fabric (approximately 7cm x 6cm), aluminium foil (approximately 9cm x 12cm), two pipe cleaners, a wooden clothes peg, a black fine nib permanent marker, glue or glue dots, scissors.

## Instructions:

1. Cut the felt or fabric to fit the body of the clothes peg; this is the tunic of the soldier. Secure in place with glue or glue dots. If necessary, leave to dry.
2. Draw on the features on the face of the soldier using a black permanent marker.
3. With half a length of pipe cleaner twist around the shoulders (above the felt/fabric) of the clothes peg to form the arms and hands of the soldier.
4. Cut a piece of aluminium foil to fit the body of your soldier; this will be the armour. Cut a notch out of the top of the piece of foil and then cut the bottom into strips (about halfway up). Attach the armour to the tunic using glue or glue dots. If necessary, leave to dry.
5. With a small rectangle of foil, glue to the head of the soldier and form into a helmet. With any remaining felt or fabric, cut a small rectangle and cut small strips along one side (about halfway through) and glue to the helmet to form a crest. If necessary, leave to dry.
6. With half a standard pipe cleaner, secure to one of the hands of the soldier; this will be the vine staff (a symbol of a centurion's office) or a throwing spear. With the other half of the same pipe cleaner, shape to form a short sword (gladius) and place this in the soldier's other hand.
7. Your Roman centurion is complete! To help him stand, use a small piece of Plasticine or Blu-Tack at the base.

**Fun fact: A Roman centurion was the commander of the smallest unit (century) in a legion of the Roman army, which was around 100 soldiers (numbers varied during different periods).**