

## Reliable Romans: draco standard



You can always rely on the Romans to show flair in battle. One way they did this was by carrying a draco standard (banner). A draco standard was a dragon's head mounted on a post with colourful fabric trailing behind. It would have been carried by the Roman cavalry (soldiers on horseback) with the idea of striking fear in the hearts of their enemies.

This inspired today's fun and simple craft to make a mini draco standard.

**To make a mini draco standard, you will need:** a paper cup, crepe or tissue paper, a pencil, scissors, paint, a paintbrush, a fine nib permanent marker (black), a dowel or lolly stick, one large wiggle eye, a glue stick and sticky tape. **Optional:** glue dots.

### Instructions:

1. Flatten the paper cup and draw a 'V' shape on one side at the end of the cup nearest the base; this is the mouth of the dragon. Cut out and then reshape the cup into its original shape.
2. Paint the cup on the outside. We painted ours green, but you can choose any colour you like. Leave to dry.
3. Cut the crepe or tissue paper into long strips or streamers; these can be as thick or thin as you like, but they need to be long. We used green crepe paper to make our streamers.
4. All around the open end of the paper cup, attach the streamers to the inside using glue, glue dots or sticky tape.
5. Glue the wiggle eye onto one side of the cup (dragon's head).
6. With a permanent marker, draw a nostril and dragon's scales on the same side of the cup.
7. Secure a dowel or lolly stick onto the other side of the cup using glue or glue dots and sticky tape.
8. Your draco standard is now ready for battle – it is a fearsome sight for all to behold!