

Name: _____

ROMAN LEGIONS (1)

Match the correct labels to the diagram.



Iron-headed javelin about 2 meters long.

Leather sandals with hobnails on the soles to strengthen them and reduce wear.

Helmet made with leather and bronze (a mixture of mainly copper and tin) strengthened with additions made of iron.

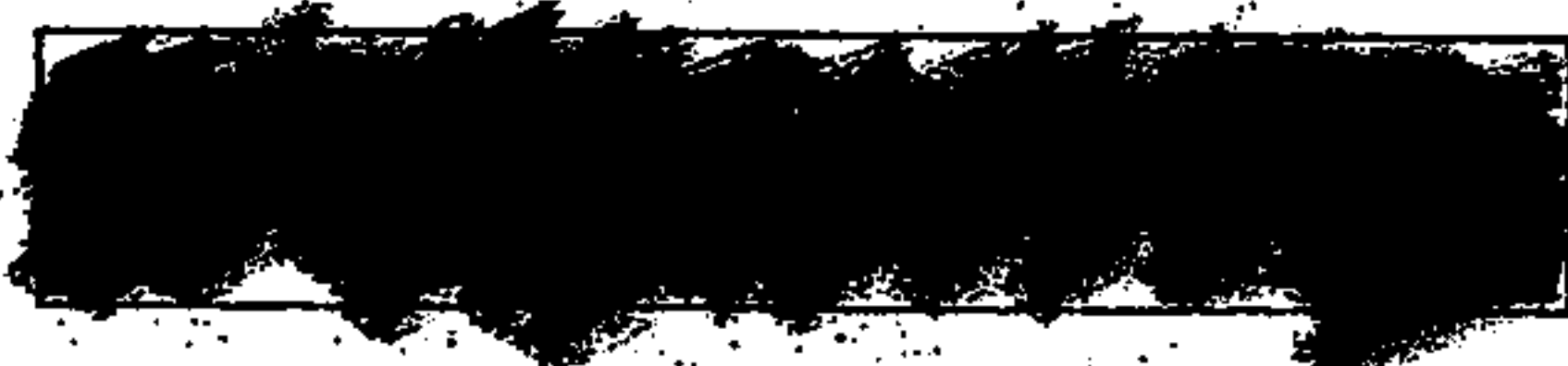
Groin guard of leather and metal.



Knife on his belt for hand-to-hand combat at close quarters.

Armor — metal plates hinged with metal or laced together with leather thonging.

Short sword for thrusting and slashing enemy soldiers.



Long, curved wooden shield with metal stud in center and metal reinforcement around the edges.

1. What do you think the best part of the Roman's uniform was? What advantage could it have given them?

2. If you could add or change one piece of equipment what would it be? Why?

ROMAN SHIELD

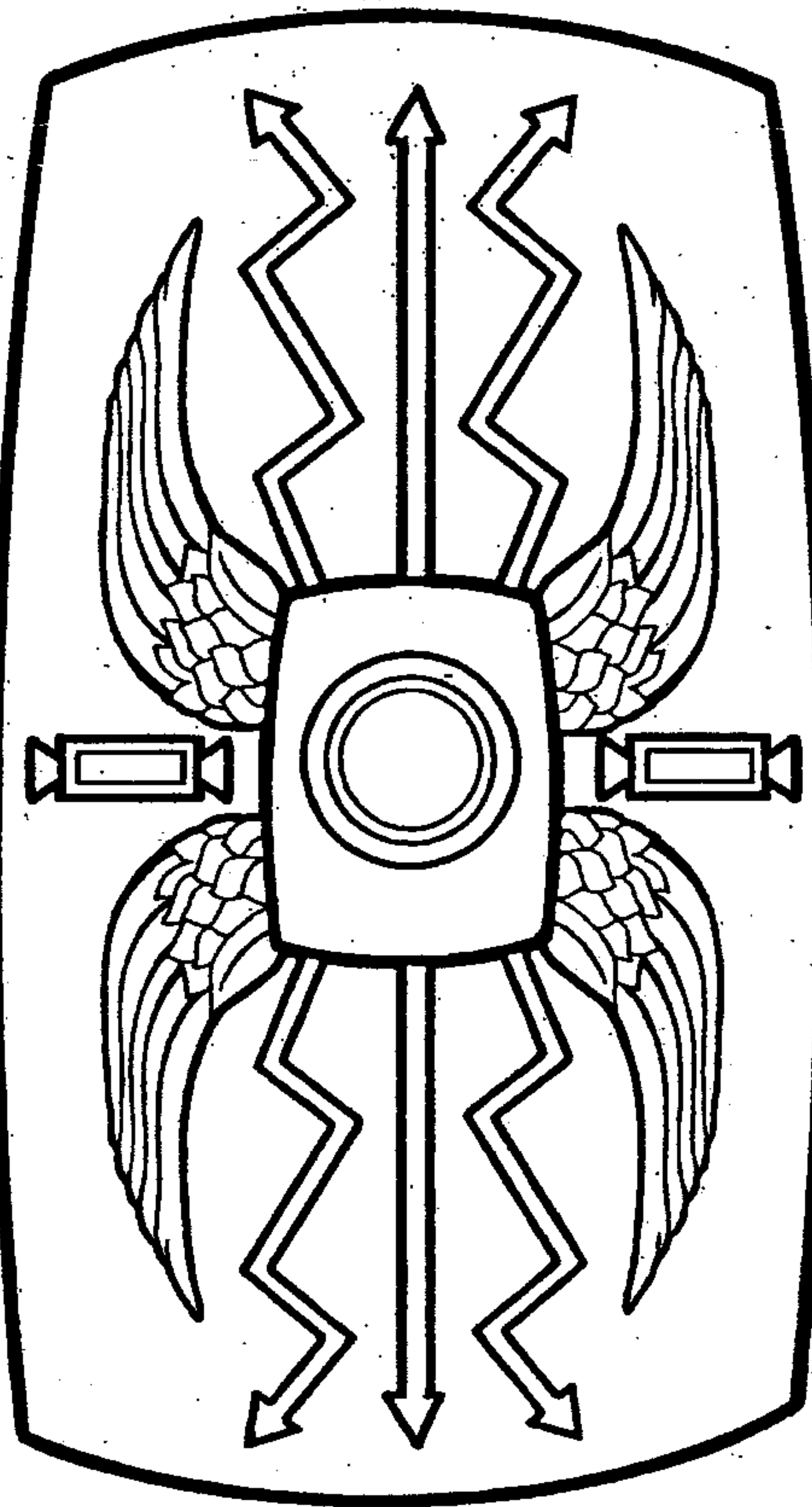
A ROMAN SHIELD

A large Roman shield was called a *scutum*. It was made from thin sheets of wood that were glued together in a curved shape. The center was hollowed out on the inside for the handgrip. On the outside, the surface was covered in leather. The round *umbo*, or boss, in the center of the shield was made of iron or other metal. The edges of the shield were also bound in metal to make the shield stronger.

The shield was a good defensive weapon. The curved shape of the shield allowed it to absorb heavy blows and deflect arrows. The boss in the center was heavy enough to stun an opponent. A legionary would advance toward the enemy with his shield partially raised to block the opponent. Then he would use his sword for attack.

The shape of the shield also allowed a group of soldiers to use them as a barrier. Soldiers grouped together and covered themselves with their shields. Then they advanced in a half-crouching, half-walking movement. This was called the *testudo*, or tortoise, formation because the shell of shields protected the soldiers against enemy fire.

SCUTUM (SHIELD)



TESTUDO (TORTOISE) FORMATION



UMBO (BOSS)

glue