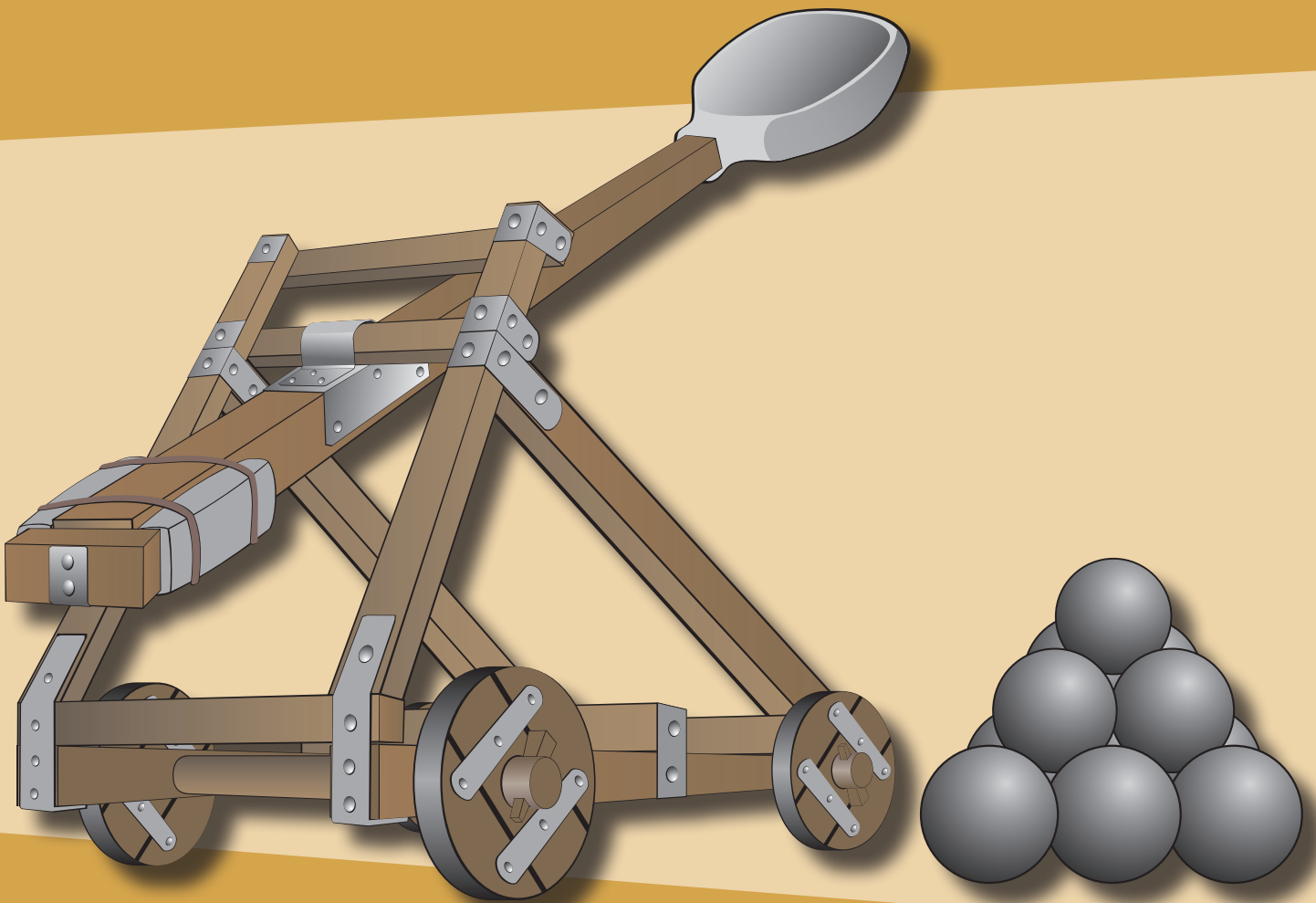




CANTERBURY  
**ROMAN**  
MUSEUM

# Make Your Own Mini Roman Catapult

The Roman army would fight with various weapons including siege catapults. Make your mini onager catapult, fire your object, and see how far it travels!



# What is a Catapult?

A Catapult is a weapon that can be used during wartime to throw missiles and objects over long distances. This technology was believed to have been invented by the Greeks but was used a lot by the Romans and their armies.



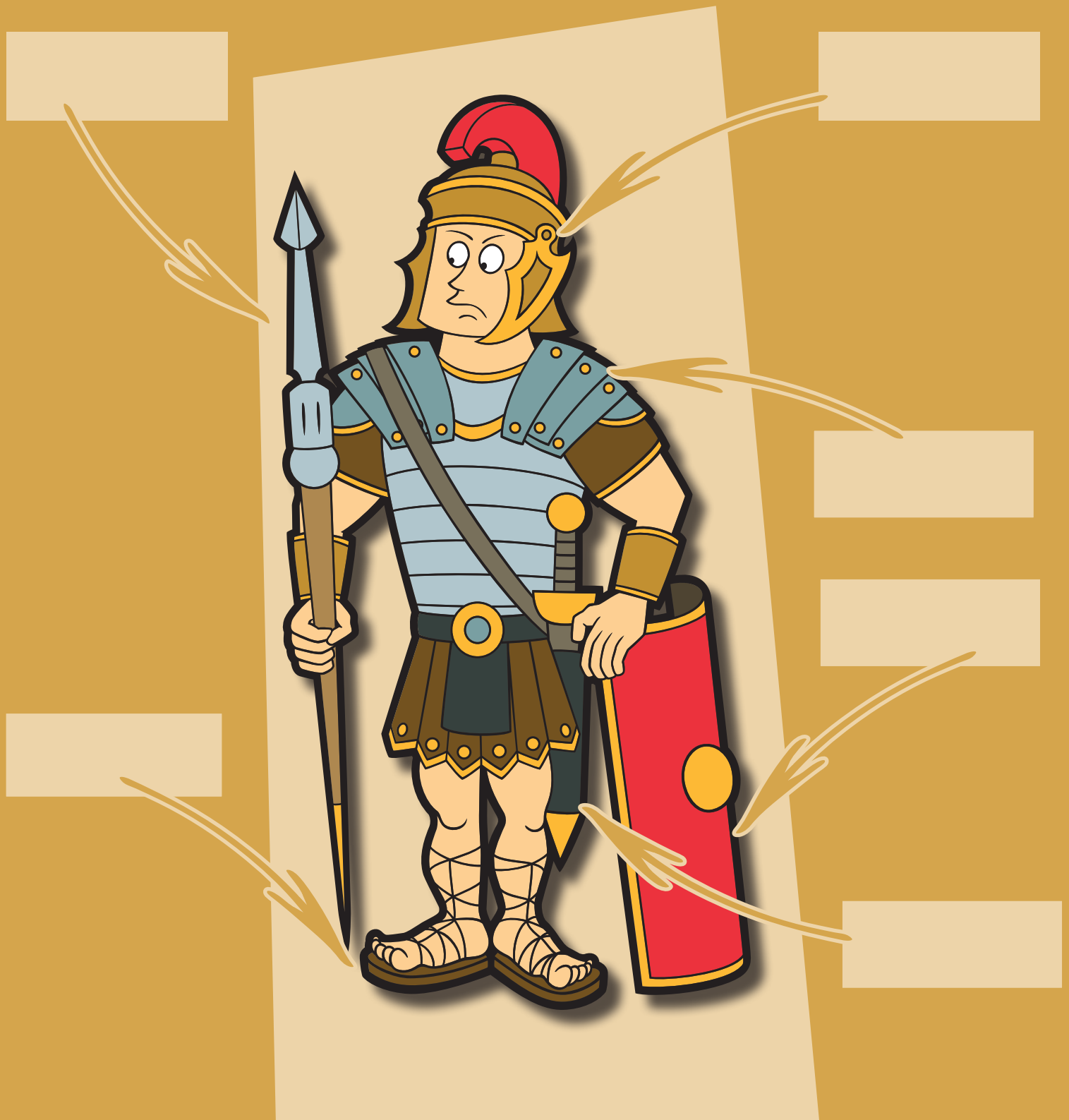
The Romans called the catapult, an onager. This is also the name for a type of animal known for its kicking ability, similar to a donkey!

The Romans used the onager to throw large boulders, or rocks, great distances. They would aim for structures such as buildings and walls to try and knock them down. These were large and would take up to eight people to move them. They would sometimes throw balls of flaming tar to cause more damage.

# A Roman Soldier

Roman soldiers had to be very strong, they would walk up to 20 miles a day carrying all their belongings with them.

Can you label the Roman soldier below with all his equipment and weapons? You may have to do some research first! Fancy an extra challenge? Try finding all the Roman names for the weapons too!



# YOUR MINI ROMAN CATAPULT

Make your mini onager catapult, fire your object, and see how far it travels. Remember, if you need to borrow anything or clear space, ask permission from an adult first!

## Materials

- Six rubber bands
- Six wooden craft sticks
- One spoon
- Paper and foil (for your missiles)

## Instructions

1. Place five craft sticks together, and rubber band them at both ends, wrapping the rubber bands until they are tight.
2. To make the 'flinger', take one remaining craft stick and a spoon, and rubber band them at one end making sure the spoon is on the top, ready to fire your missiles.
3. Wedge the block of five sticks in the middle so the craft stick and spoon splay apart. You can change the lever length of your catapult by moving the block of sticks to different positions. This is great for learning about leverage.
4. Use two rubber bands to make an "X" around the entire flinger and the block of sticks. Leave it loose enough so that you can change the lever length when you want to.
5. Load up the spoon with pieces of folded up paper or rolled up foil, pull back, aim (not at humans or animals), and fire away! Why not try making some targets out of paper or cups?



Want to test your knowledge of Canterbury during Roman Britain?  
Try out our [ROARING ROMANS QUIZ](#) to see how you do!

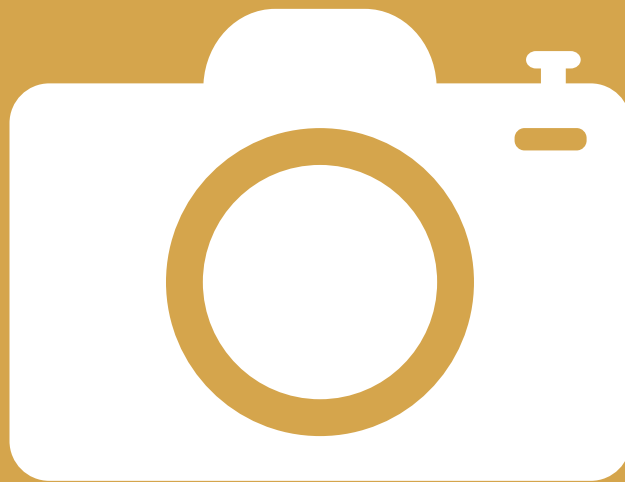
# CONGRATULATIONS!

You're now ready to join the Roman army!

We are looking forward to welcoming you to The Roman Museum.

We would love to see your Catapult!

So please share it with us!



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