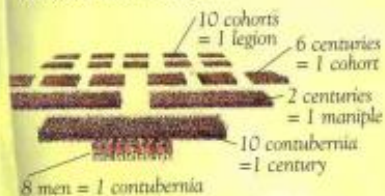


# Comrades in arms

To join the army, you must be young, male, slim, healthy and at least 1.75 m tall. You need good eyesight and hearing and the ability to speak Latin. If you are a Roman citizen, born in the Roman Empire, you are just the man we need. Even if you are not a Roman citizen you can still enroll, as long as you are not a slave.

## How a legion is divided

There are about 300,000 soldiers in the entire Roman army, and the elite troops (120,000 men) are divided into 25 legions.



## Standard-bearers

These soldiers are standard-bearers (*signiferi*). Chosen for their bravery, they carry their legion's standard (an emblem) in battle. They also look after the soldiers' pay and savings.



## The sign of Rome

The letters SPQR stand for *Senatus Populusque Romanus*. It means "the Senate and people of Rome".



## Legionary or auxiliary?

There are two different types of soldier in the Roman army – legionaries and auxiliaries. If you're a Roman citizen you can join as a legionary. If you're not a Roman citizen, you'll be recruited as an auxiliary. You will provide extra manpower to assist the legionaries. You could also be deployed as an expert to fight using your own native techniques.



Battle scene carved in marble

## Soldiers in stone

This carving on a decorative coffin shows Roman soldiers fighting against the Dacians in present-day Eastern Europe.

## Army on the march

Where would you fit into this army? The commander rides in front, followed by bodyguards, musicians and standard-bearers. Then comes a legionary centurion with a century of legionaries (regular soldiers), two auxiliary centurions on horseback, their standard-bearer, two auxiliary cavalry officers, auxiliary archers and finally the baggage wagon.

