

YEAR 4: THE PUNIC WARS (5 lessons)



Contents Include:

The First Punic War

Hannibal and Carthage

The start of the Roman Empire

Roman Roads

Suggested Teacher Resources:

- *A Little History of the World* by Ernst Gombrich (chapters 13, 15 and 17).
- The [BBC primary site](#) has Roman resources and information for pupils.
- [BBC History](#) has overviews of different aspects of Roman history.
- The BBC drama documentary 'Hannibal: Rome's Worst Nightmare' (2006), and the [History channel](#) website.

Lesson 1. Conflict with Carthage

For the first two centuries of the Republic, Rome's power spread through Italy. However, they had no overseas territory and did not have a strong navy to control the Mediterranean Sea. The great Mediterranean power at the time in the was a city called Carthage. The people of Carthage, called Carthaginians, were expert sailors who spread their power through North Africa, Spain, and the Islands of Corsica, Sardinia and Sicily. The Romans saw their empire as a threat, especially as Sicily was so close to the Italian mainland. A dispute over Sicily kick-started the first great foreign war in Roman history.

See page 127 of *What Your Year 4 Child Needs to Know*.

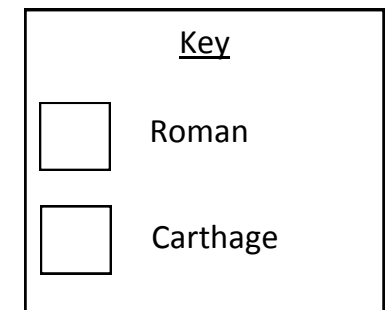
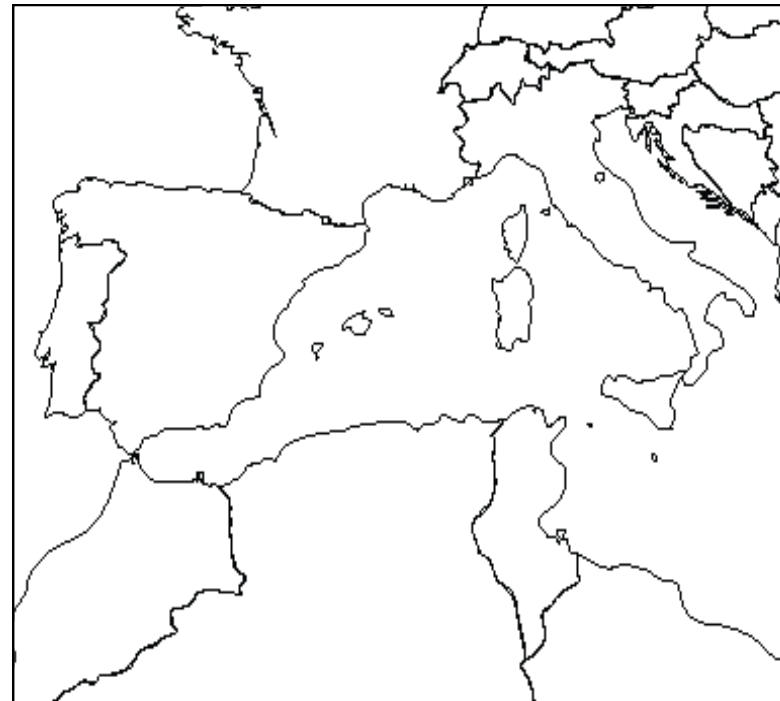
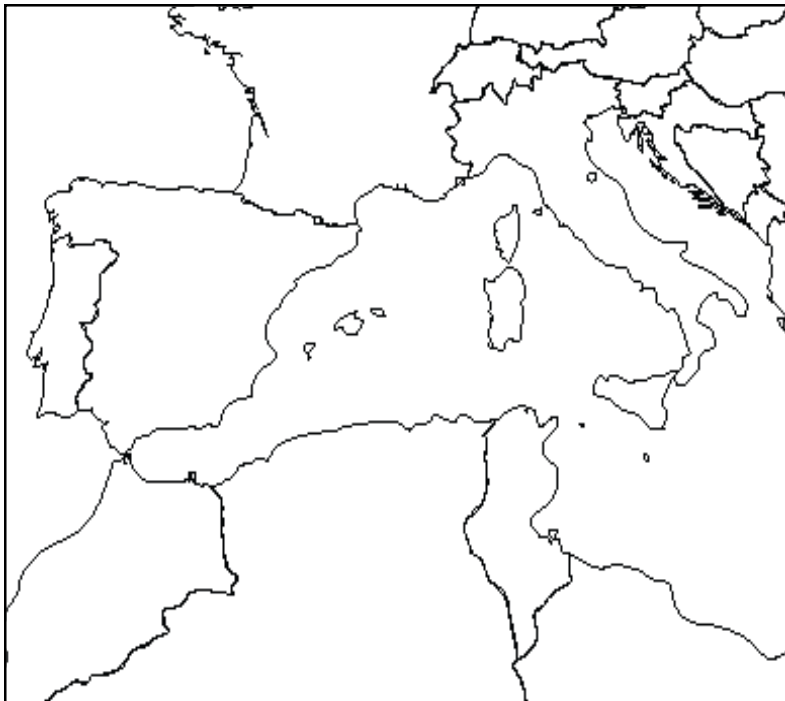
Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
<p>To understand who the Carthaginians were, and why they came into conflict with the Romans.</p>	<p>By the third century BC, Rome had spread its power throughout Italy, but did not have any overseas territories.</p> <p>The great power in the Mediterranean at the time was Carthage, based in North Africa (modern day Tunisia).</p> <p>They were great sailors, and controlled an empire spreading across North Africa, Spain, and the Islands of Corsica, Sardinia and Sicily. The Romans saw their power as a threat.</p>	<p>Shade in a map showing the land controlled by Carthage and Rome before the first Punic War. In the following lesson, once you have learned the outcome of the War, shade in the second map to illustrate Roman gains (resource 1). This map shows Europe before the war, this map shows Europe afterwards.</p> <p>This and this are good images of Carthage, showing its famous port, which will allow pupils to understand its control over the Mediterranean.</p> <p>This is an excellent video to introduce the Carthaginians.</p>	<p>Carthage Mediterranean Tunisia empire Sicily</p>	<p><i>Who were the Carthaginians?</i></p> <p><i>Why were the Carthaginians so powerful?</i></p> <p><i>Why did the Romans see Carthage as a threat?</i></p>

1. First Punic War

At the start of the First Punic War, Carthage was the major power in the Western Mediterranean. In comparison, Rome only controlled the Italian peninsula and had no overseas territories. In order to understand this, shade in the two territories, and label the relevant countries. Next lesson, when you learn about the outcome of the first Punic War, you will be able to shade in the second map.

Europe before the First Punic War (264 BC)

Europe after the First Punic War (241 BC)



Lesson 2. The First Punic War

In 264 BC, war broke out between Carthage and Rome. It was known as the First Punic War, because Romans used the Latin word 'Punicus' to describe people from Carthage. Sparked by a dispute over who should control Sicily, the war lasted for twenty years. Much of it was fought at sea so the Romans, who until now only had a strong land army, had to build a navy to rival the sea power of Carthage. This they did with the help of Greek ship builders, and Rome won a clear victory. By the end of the First Punic War, Rome controlled Sicily, its first overseas territory.

See page 127 of *What Your Year 4 Child Needs to Know*.

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
To understand the outcome of the First Punic War.	<p>The first Punic war began in 264 BC with a conflict over the island of Sicily.</p> <p>The war lasted for twenty years, and much of it was fought at sea. The Romans, who until then had no naval power, had to build hundreds of ships with Greek help to fight the Carthaginians.</p> <p>The war ended with a Roman victory, and the Romans took control of Sicily, which became their first overseas territory.</p>	<p>This is a good video about the rise and fall of the Carthaginian civilisation, which covers the First Punic War. This video profiles the great Carthaginian general Hamilcar Barca.</p> <p>Study how the Romans managed to develop a navy to rival the Carthaginians. In particular, look at the design of the 'Corvus' which allowed Romans to board Carthaginian ships and fight hand to hand combat, which was their speciality. See here.</p> <p>Once pupils have learnt the outcome of the First Punic War, they complete the worksheet from last lesson shading in the areas won by the Romans.</p>	<p>Punic War Navy Sicily Greek Carthaginians territory</p>	<p><i>How did the first Punic war begin?</i></p> <p><i>How did the Romans win the first Punic war?</i></p> <p><i>What were the consequences of the first Punic war?</i></p>

Lesson 3. Hannibal of Carthage

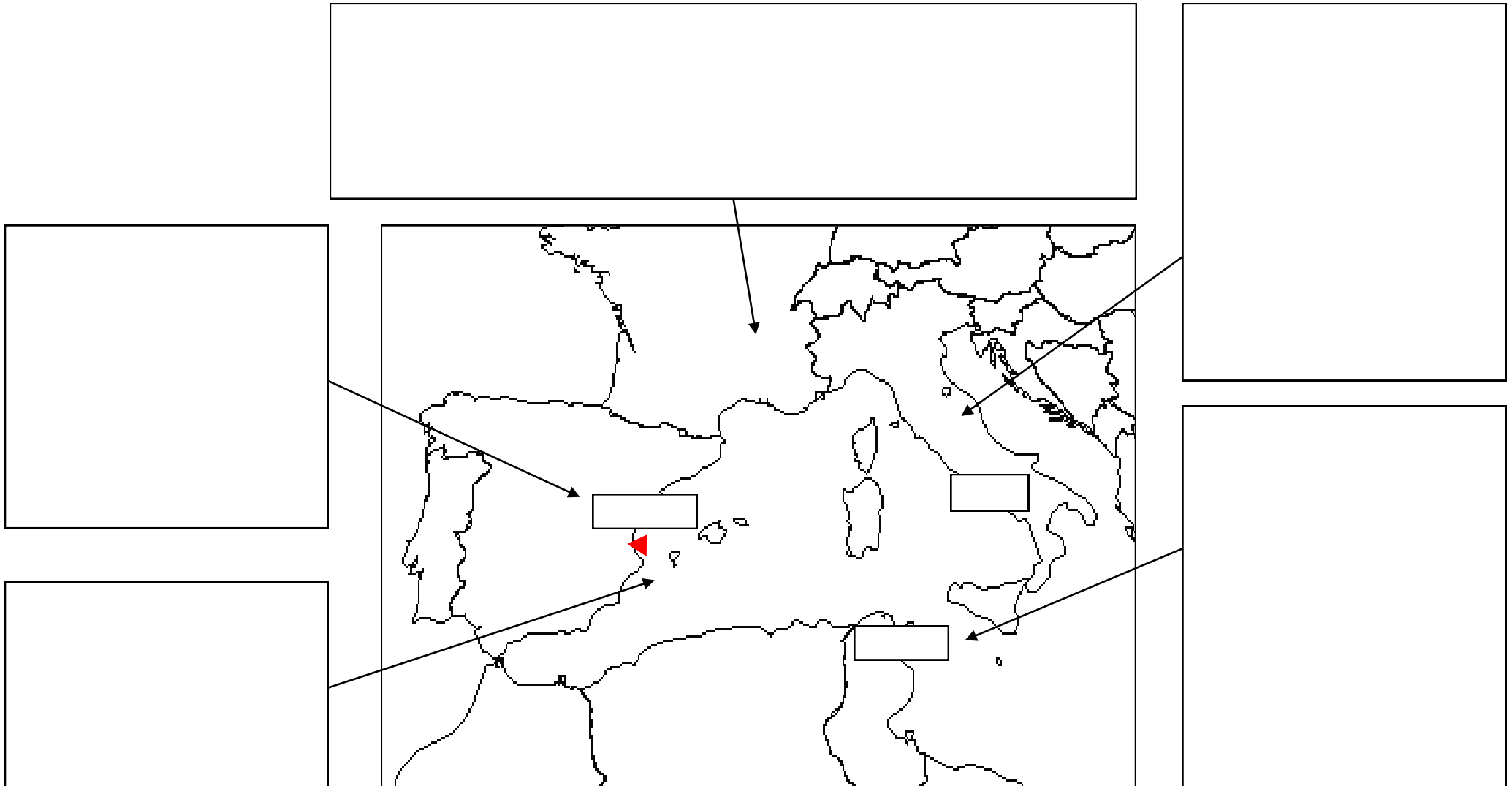
Hannibal is one of the greatest military leaders in world history. He was the son of Carthaginian General Hamilcar Barca, who fought the first Punic War. Hamilcar made his son promise to dedicate his life to seeking revenge from Rome, and Hannibal did exactly that. He established a new base of Carthaginian power in Spain, and from there, Hannibal led a famously bold attack. Instead of attacking Rome by sea, he marched through Spain and France and over the Alps into Italy, taking Rome by surprise. In order to further shock the Romans, he bought forty elephants from Africa! This was the Second Punic War.

See page 127 of *What Your Year 4 Child Needs to Know*.

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
<p>To understand who Hannibal was, and how he fought the Second Punic War.</p>	<p>Hannibal is one of the great military leaders in world history. He was the son of a Carthaginian general, Hamilcar, who made him promise to dedicate his life to defeating Rome.</p> <p>Hannibal attacked Rome from his base in Spain by marching with 40 elephants through Spain and France, and over the icy slopes of the Alps.</p> <p>For sixteen years, Hannibal tormented Rome with frequent attacks, but never managed to take the city.</p>	<p>Trace the journey of Hannibal from Carthage, to Spain, over the Alps and to Rome on a map. Annotate the map labelling what happened at each stage of his bold invasion of Rome during the Second Punic War (resource 2). Study this image of Hannibal crossing the Alps to appreciate what an astonishing decision it was.</p> <p>There are a selection of videos about Hannibal from the History channel, available here. This is a contribution from Horrible Histories.</p>	<p>Hannibal The Alps Carthaginian invasion Second Punic War</p>	<p><i>Who was Hannibal?</i></p> <p><i>Why was Hannibal so keen to defeat the Romans?</i></p> <p><i>What was so bold about Hannibal's invasion of Italy?</i></p> <p><i>Why was Hannibal such an effective military ruler?</i></p>

1. Hannibal crosses the Alps

Trace the journey of Hannibal from Carthage, to Spain, over the Alps and to Rome. Annotate the map labelling what happened at each stage of his bold invasion of Rome during the Second Punic War.



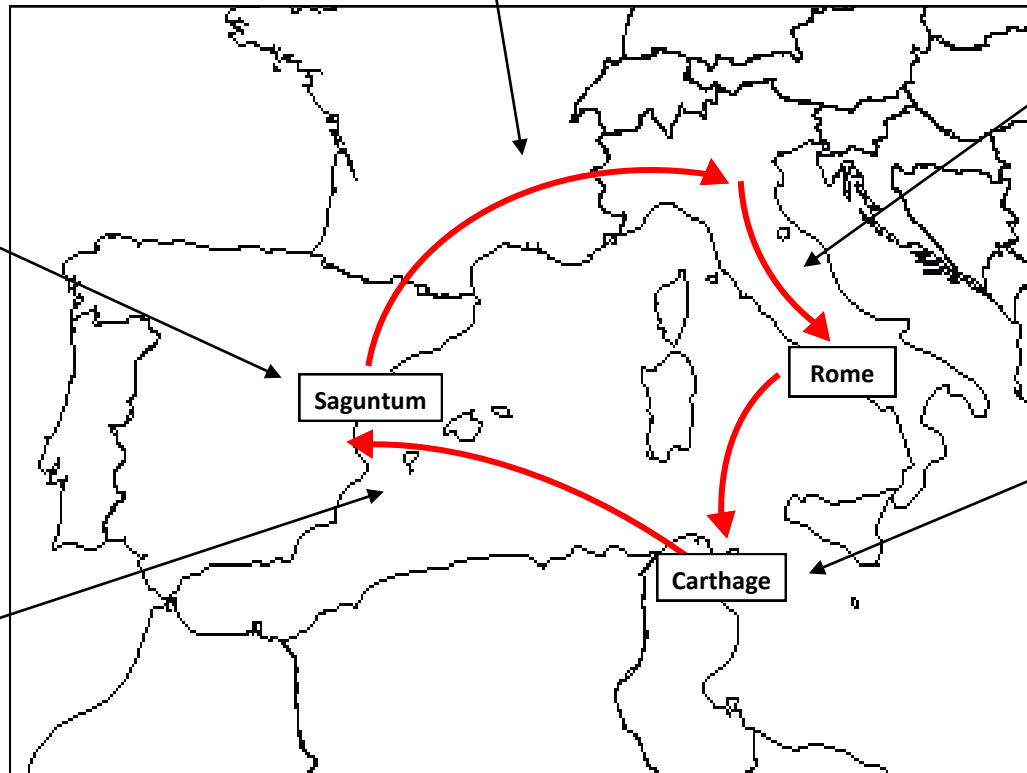
1. Hannibal crosses the Alps (complete)

Trace the journey of Hannibal from Carthage, to Spain, over the Alps and to Rome. Annotate the map labelling what happened at each stage of his bold invasion of Rome during the Second Punic War.

Hannibal makes the brave decision not to invade Rome by sea, but to go overland. With an army of 90,000 infantrymen, and 12,000 cavalry, plus forty elephants, he marches through Spain and France and to the foot of the Alps mountain range. Rome believed that no army could pass through this rocky, icy range of mountains, but Hannibal was mad enough to try.

Hannibal lost many men (an elephants) crossing the Alps, but made it into Italy. He swept through Roman territory and won a string of victories. In 216 BC Hannibal won a great victory against a Roman army twice his size at Cannae, and surrounded Rome.

In 221 BC, Hannibal took command of the Carthaginian Army in Spain, aged only 26. In 219 BC he crossed the River Ebro and attacked the Roman city of Saguntum. This started the Second Punic War.



For 16 years Hannibal tormented the Romans, but never took the city. Eventually, Rome realised they only way to end the war was to attack Carthage itself. This forced Hannibal to leave Italy to defend his home city, and in 202 BC, the Romans finally beat the Carthaginians.

As a boy Hannibal was taken to Spain to fight in the Carthaginian army. He spent his early fighting to gain control of the peninsula.

Lesson 4. The end of the Punic Wars

Carthage was soundly defeated at the end of the Second Punic War, and lost all of its overseas territories to the Romans. Hannibal survived, but was later exiled from Carthage. He continued to fight for Rome's other enemies around Europe, but died in 183 AD when he was surrounded by Roman forces, and took poison to prevent capture. The Third Punic War saw the now far stronger Romans at their most merciless: laying waste to their old enemy, destroying the old city of Carthage and selling its entire population into slavery. The last Punic War ended in 146 AD, Rome was the undisputed Mediterranean power.

See page 128-130 of *What Your Year 4 Child Needs to Know*.

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
<p>To understand how the Punic Wars transformed Rome into the leading Mediterranean power.</p>	<p>At the end of the Second Punic War, Carthage was invaded, and they lost territory in Spain and North Africa to Rome.</p> <p>Hannibal was exiled from Carthage. He fought for other enemies of the Romans until 183 BC, when he was surrounded by Roman forces and took poison.</p> <p>In 149 BC, the third and last Punic War began. Rome invaded Carthage, burnt it to the ground, and sold any surviving cities into slavery.</p>	<p>Write an obituary for Hannibal, explaining why the Carthaginian leader was such an important, and feared enemy of the Romans. There is a good summary of his life here, and a longer account here.</p> <p>Imagine that you are the young Roman general Scipio Aemilianus who destroyed Carthage in the Third Punic War. Write a letter back to the Roman Senate declaring a victory, and explaining what you have done to the city and its inhabitants. Explain that Rome will now be forever safe of its greatest enemy.</p> <p>Look at image of the ruins of Carthage today.</p>	<p>Mediterranean Roman General Roman Senate victory destruction</p>	<p><i>What was the outcome of the Second Punic War?</i></p> <p><i>How did Hannibal finally die?</i></p> <p><i>What was the outcome of the Third Punic War?</i></p> <p><i>Why did the Romans destroy the city of Carthage?</i></p>

Lesson 5. All Roads Lead to Rome

After the three Punic Wars, Rome had a large empire stretching from Spain to Turkey, and across North Africa. Keeping control of this empire depended on the famous Roman roads. Romans used their armies of soldiers and slaves to build great roads across their empire, and they tried to make them as straight and as flat as possible. These roads allowed Romans to communicate, trade and govern with all of the furthest parts of the empire, and led to the famous saying that 'all roads lead to Rome'. These roads were technically advanced and used the same design across the Empire. Many are still used today.

See page 130-131 of *What Your Year 4 Child Needs to Know*.

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
<p>To understand how Rome's new empire depended upon its roads.</p>	<p>After the three Punic Wars, Rome ruled a large empire that from Spain to Turkey, and across North Africa.</p> <p>In order to keep this empire under control, the Romans built an impressive network of roads, which they could use to communicate, trade and govern far off provinces.</p> <p>Roman road building technology was extremely advanced, such that some Roman roads still survive and are used to this day.</p>	<p>Use this map to show how the Roman Empire expanded during and after the three Punic Wars.</p> <p>Study the way in which a Roman road was built using gravel, cement and large stones, with a curve surface so that water ran off into drainage ditches. In addition, emphasise how keen they were to make the roads straight and flat, even if it meant building bridges and tunnels, and carving through hills. The BBC Primary section on Roman roads is good for this, as is this site.</p> <p>This is an excellent video about Roman Roads, as is this. This is a Horrible Histories video about messengers.</p>	<p>empire control gravel cement drainage</p>	<p><i>What was the outcome of the Second Punic War?</i></p> <p><i>How did Hannibal finally die?</i></p> <p><i>What was the outcome of the Third Punic War?</i></p> <p><i>Why did the Romans destroy the city of Carthage?</i></p>

Lesson 6. Life as a Roman Soldier

The Roman Empire required a mighty army. A Roman consul named Gaius Marius overhauled the structure of the Roman army, turning it into the most efficient and best organised fighting force in the world. In order to join the Roman army, you had to be a man over 20 years of age, and soldiers were drawn from Africa, France, Germany, Spain and the Middle East. Roman soldiers were well paid, highly trained, and had excellent equipment such as the iron and leather 'lorica' or the 'galea', a metal helmet. Most famously, they used their large shields to march into battle in a testudo, or 'tortoise', formation.

See page 131 of *What Your Year 4 Child Needs to Know*.

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
<p>To understand why the Roman army was so powerful and well organised.</p>	<p>The Roman army was shaped by Gaius Marius, who turned it into the most efficient and best organised fighting force in the world.</p> <p>The Roman army was very structured, with armour such as the 'lorica' and 'galea'; clever tactics such as the 'testudo'; and a rigid structure of legions, cohorts and centuries.</p> <p>Life for a Roman soldier could be very tough, but they were well paid and if they survived, they enjoyed a comfortable retirement.</p>	<p>The BBC Primary website has an excellent selection of information, images, videos and activates about life in the Roman army. There are two resources, including labelling a Roman soldier with his equipment and a diagram of the Roman army structure.</p> <p>Using cardboard boxes as shields, the class create their own testuda to march into battle.</p> <p>Draw a recruitment poster for the Roman army, explaining all of the benefits of joining.</p> <p>This is a horrible histories video about conscription to the Roman army, this is about life in the Roman army, and this is about the practice of decimation.</p>	<p>legion century lorica galea scutum testudo</p>	<p><i>How was the Roman army organised?</i></p> <p><i>What equipment did a Roman legionary take into battle?</i></p> <p><i>Why would people want to join the Roman army?</i></p> <p><i>What was life like in the Roman army?</i></p>