



## Make a Roman Sandal

This activity gives children the opportunity to make a Roman sandal. The production of shoes and footwear has been an important industry over time. It fits into a wider context of the design and manufacture of footwear, including changes in styles and fashions, as well as the tanning and leather making industries.

### You will need:

- Roman sandal template
- Pens or tailors' chalk
- Thin leather or similar material
- Scissors
- A large needle
- A hole punch
- Wool or thread for stitching
- Leather cord for the laces

### Activity:

Begin by drawing around the template onto the leather and then cutting out the pattern. To make shoes to fit different sized feet simply enlarge or reduce the pattern on a photocopier. NB: Make sure the children draw in where the holes are! With the hole punch, punch the required number of holes and cut out the holes for the laces. Follow the sewing guide to stitch side A to side B, then stitch the heel to sides C and D. Then follow the picture guide to thread the laces into the sandals.

Children should evaluate the design of the sandal and see if they think they can make any improvements to it. What are the good points of this design? Would the sandal be good to wear in cold or wet weather? How could it be improved to cope with British weather conditions? How could the sole be made more hard wearing for soldiers marching long distances every day? In reality soldier's sandals had hobnails on the soles; this gave them better grip, made them more hard wearing and had the added benefit of making them noisy which helped to frighten their enemies!

### Useful questions:

- How do we know that Roman sandals looked like this and were made in this way when leather does not usually survive archaeologically?

### Research Opportunities:

- Look at the design of different types of modern footwear. How does the design make it fit for purpose? For example running shoes, football boots,

## Creative Minds Investigate! Archaeology

safety footwear, high heels, flip flops, Wellington boots. Ask the children to design their own footwear for a particular purpose. What factors do they need to think about when deciding on their design?

### Useful Websites:

You can find various images of period shoes by searching on google images

[www.ozemail.com.au/~chrisandpeter/radical\\_romans/footwear/sandals.htm](http://www.ozemail.com.au/~chrisandpeter/radical_romans/footwear/sandals.htm)

[www.minimus-etc.co.uk/activities\\_page.htm](http://www.minimus-etc.co.uk/activities_page.htm)

[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass/](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass/)

[www.podiatry.curtin.edu.au/sandal.html](http://www.podiatry.curtin.edu.au/sandal.html)

	National Curriculum	QCA Unit
<b>KS 1</b>	History: 4a, b D&T: 1a-e; 2a-e; 3a, b; 4a; 5a-c	Science: 2D
<b>KS 2</b>	History: 4a, b; 8a D&T: 1a-d; 2a-e; 3-a-c; 4a, b; 5a-c	History: 6A D&T: 6B Science: 3C

This activity was donated by the Young Archaeologists Club.

Wendi Terry, [wenditerry@britarch.ac.uk](mailto:wenditerry@britarch.ac.uk), St.Mary's House, 66 Bootham, York, YO30 7BZ



Young Archaeologists' Club

## creativeminds

The Creative Minds project works with museums libraries and archives across the Yorkshire region, to provide young people with learning opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (S.T.E.M.). This ground-breaking project is the first of its kind in the country and is managed by MLA Yorkshire. This pack was developed by Creative Minds with funding from Yorkshire Forward.



# Roman sandal

