

The Council of War

Caradoc, King of the Atrebates, had called his chiefs to a war meeting, a council, in his hut. A merchant had just come back from Gaul on his Celtic trading boat with news that the Roman fleet was getting ready to sail for Cantium – the Celtic kingdom closest to Gaul. Caesar planned to conquer Britain, slaughter all those who fought him, and make their wives and children slaves.

What should the Atrebates tribe do?

- Flee?
- Send money and hostages to Caesar as a sign of friendship?
- Fight?
- Make a treaty with Caesar to attack the king of Cantium?
- Find out more about Caesar's army?

Caradoc said that his son and daughter were on a visit to Caesar. The Atrebates chiefs argued long into the night. At last Caradoc and his chiefs agreed that they needed to find out more about the Caesar's plans. They would send a message of friendship to Caesar and at the same time ask Emma and Dylan to spy upon Caesar. Caradoc wanted them to find out as much as they could about how the Romans would fight.

The Roman Army

Emma and Dylan were staying in Caesar's camp, but they thought they would find out even more if they used Emma's invisibility cloak. She tapped the cauldron in the campsite and muttered her spell, *Gallicabattlica*. ...

To find out about the Roman army, Dylan and Emma first of all had to think about the questions that they would want answers to.

They intended to travel to a battle that the Romans had fought against a Celtic tribe in Gaul. This would show a Roman army in action. After looking at the battle, they would go back to Caesar's camp, as his army was getting ready to board its boats and sail for Cantium in Britain. Emma and Dylan were pleased with this plan – it would mean they could tell their dad, Caradoc, and his chiefs, what they wanted to know about the Roman army and its plans.

The Roman Army at war

How could she do it, thought Dylan. How could Emma have dropped them in the space between the two armies! On one side stood the Roman catapults and troops, on the other they could hear the trumpets and howling battle cries of the Gauls as they swarmed through the forest. Thank goodness the invisibility cloak was also a shield that nothing could damage. Now Emma and Dylan would find out how the Romans fought. The Roman general roared the order to fire the catapults – the battle had begun. A giant Roman arrow bounced off the top of the invisibility cloak and soared towards the forest. The children could hear screaming, the roar of the burning forest, the wild neighing of horses and charging feet ...

Caesar's army

The spell meant that Emma and Dylan only saw the start of the battle – for now they were back in Caesar's camp, though still under the invisibility cloak. The Roman troops were getting ready to sail across the channel. The children were able to spy on the Roman army – they could see everything: Caesar talking to his officers; soldiers training; soldiers dressed for battle; the camp; catapults; the army on the march; the boats that would carry the soldiers across the channel and pictures of fighting.

THE ROMAN ARMY: SPY SHEET 1 RESOURCE 2

Name Date

Questions	Answers

THE ROMAN ARMY: SPY SHEET 2 RESOURCE 3

Name Date

Questions	Answers
What armour did the Roman soldiers wear?	
What weapons did Roman soldiers have?	
What were the shields of Roman soldiers like?	
How did Roman soldiers fight?	
What did Roman army camps look like?	
What would you hear, smell, see and taste on a visit to a Roman army camp?	<p>hear</p> <p>smell</p> <p>see</p> <p>taste</p>
What words and phrases would you use to describe a Roman army on the march?	

SPY REPORT: CAESAR'S ARMY

RESOURCE 4

To help you write your report, think about :

- **Trigger words**

armour boats camp catapults cavalry charge fight general
legions march officers spears swords tunic

- **Smart words**

then

another point

because

finally

first

I think

in conclusion

next

we saw

- Look at your Roman army spy sheet: put the points in the order you will report on them.

SPY REPORT: CAESAR'S ARMY

REPORT GENRE FRAME

RESOURCE 5

Name: Date:

1 SET THE SCENE

- Place – where
- Setting the scene
- When (date – day, time)
- You are there
- Feelings

Audience: who is the report going to? (Caradoc the Celtic King)

Author: Emma or Dylan

2 DETAIL

- * armour
- * weapons
- * explosives
- * camp
- * campaign
- * battle plan – tactics
- * smells
- * where marching to

3 ADVICE TO CELTIC KING – CONCLUSION