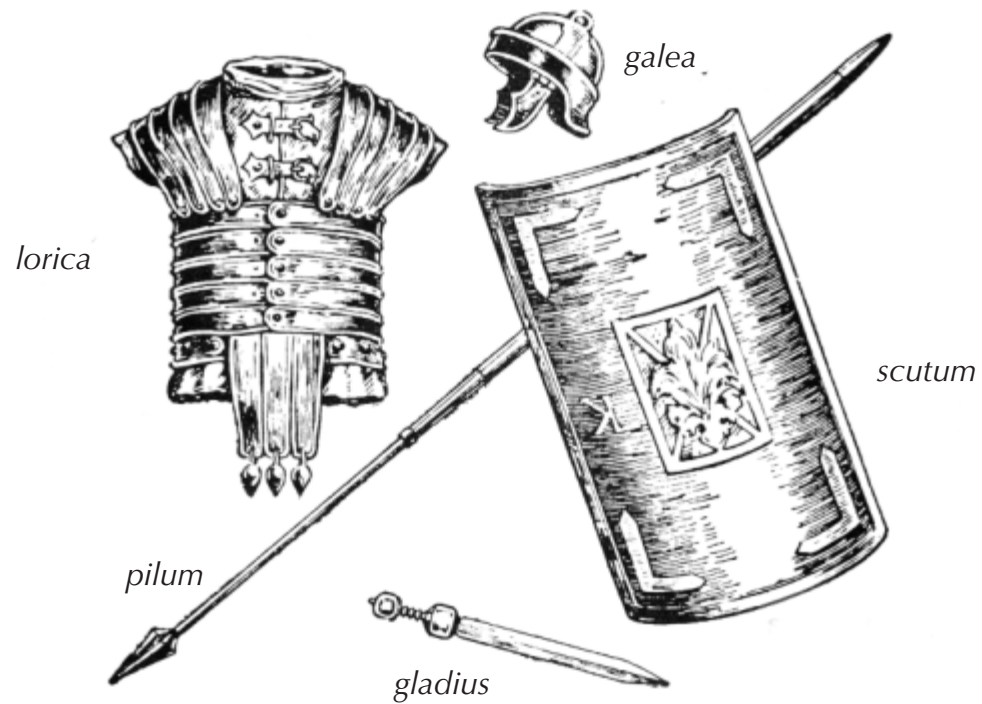


Roman Armor and Weapons



Roman Armor and Weapons

Explanation

The common Roman soldier was well equipped with armor of leather manufacture, edged or tipped with iron. His primary defensive weapon was a large rectangular shield, called a *scutum*, which protected much of his body. Major offensive weapons were the *pilum*, a short javelin hurled at the enemy from approximately twenty paces and the much feared *gladius*, a short sword designed for stabbing, used at close range with deadly effect. Compare Ephesians 6:13–17.

Reference

William J. Hamblin, “The Roman Army in the First Century,” *MWNT*, 337–49.