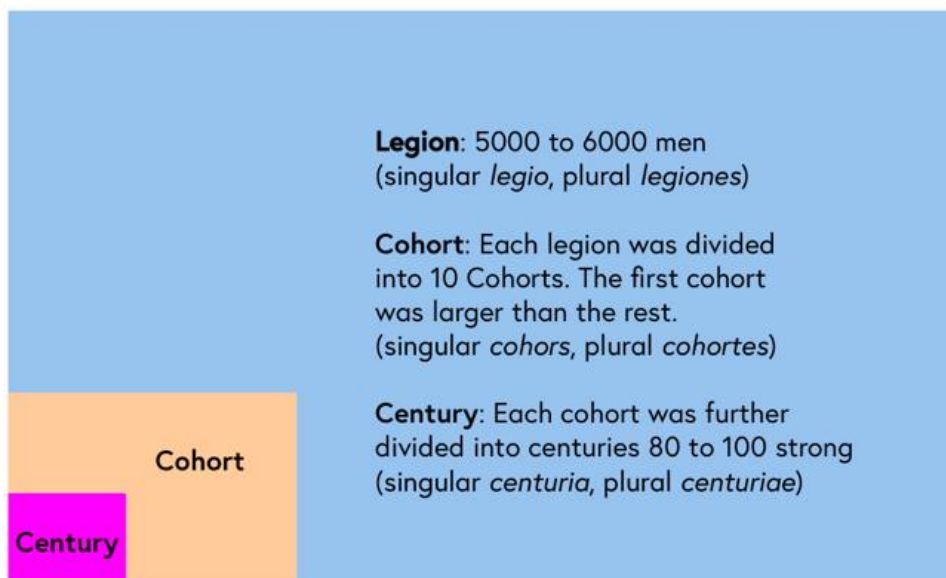


- Soldiers were rigorously trained to march long distances, fight in precise formations, and kill expertly with all the weapons they carried.
- Rome grew from a small town on the [Tiber River](#) in central Italy into a vast empire that ultimately embraced England, all of continental [Europe](#) west of the Rhine and south of the Danube, most of [Asia](#) west of the Euphrates, northern Africa, and the islands of the Mediterranean.
- was governed by a strong military [ethos](#).
- By the time [Augustus](#) came to power, the army contained 60 legions. Each of these was divided into ten cohorts of up to 480 men. The minimum term of service for a soldier during the first century AD was twenty years.
- The government knew the importance of the Roman army and provided them with good armor and weapons. Roman soldiers had armor made of strips of strong iron. The iron made the armor strong and the strips made it flexible. They also had iron helmets which protected their heads and neck, but still let them have good vision for fighting. All of this [iron](#) armor was heavy, so they needed to be strong and in good shape. They also carried tall shields in some cases.
- The Roman soldiers used a variety of weapons including a pugio (dagger), gladius (sword, see picture to the right), hasta (spear), javelin, and bows and arrows. The soldiers were trained to fight with their weapons and practiced on a regular basis. They would sometimes spar with each other using wooden swords.
- **As a result, the army was a major player in Roman politics and maintaining its loyalty was an essential task for any Emperor**
- The Roman Empire was created and controlled by its soldiers. At the core of the army were its legions, which were without equal in their training, discipline and fighting ability
- At its largest, the Roman army was made up of 30 legions, or over 150,000 soldiers. Counting the auxiliary soldiers, some estimate there were well over 1 million soldiers in the Roman arm
- The pilum was a heavy spear that was thrown before hand-to-hand combat
- By the time [Augustus](#) came to power, the army contained 60 legions. Each of these was divided into ten cohorts of up to 480 men. The minimum term of service for a soldier during the first century AD was twenty years
- Each legionnaire (or 'miles') carried a short sword, called a gladius. This was his main weapon. He also carried a 'pilum' (javelin), a helmet, armor, shield and a pack with supplies. Soldiers were rigorously trained to march long distances, fight in precise formations, and kill expertly with all the weapons they carried.
- the standard formation of the maniples was *triplex acies*, with troops drawn up three lines deep, the *hastati* at the front, the *principes* in the middle, and the *triarii* at the back. Each soldier would take up a space around 6 foot square, enabling him to throw his *pilum* and effectively wield his sword

- Roman siege weapons tended to be variations or copies of [Hellenistic](#) versions; they came in a variety of sizes, shapes, and functions.
- The soldiers in the Roman Legionary were all Roman citizens. They signed up to fight for 20 years. At the end of the 20 years they were generally awarded land and/or a large sum of money. This way the army was made up of trained and experienced soldiers. It also put land in the hands of loyal soldiers.
- There were also non-citizen soldiers called auxiliaries. They joined for 25 years and were awarded Roman citizenship at the end of the 25 years. Roman citizenship was a big deal and came with lots of privileges.
- It was one of the longest surviving and most efficient fighting forces
- They would be enrolled for a specific amount of time instead of signing up for years of service
- The army was divided up into Legions of around 5400 soldiers. Legions were led by a Legate who was usually a Senator or a Governor. Legions were made up of ten groups of soldiers called cohorts. Cohorts were then further divided into groups of 80 men called centuries. The officers, or leaders, of each century were called centurions.
- Recruiting ages would be around ages 18-20
- It didn't matter if you were roman citizen if you were free born you could be recruited
- the adult male population was estimated to have risen from about 200,000 to 400,000 individuals.
- first emperor Augustus in the first centuries B.C. and A.D., which showed a population that had increased to about 4 million to 5 million males.



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