Centurion

I am an Officer in the Roman army and I am in charge of all the soldiers in the Fort. I train them how to fight and give them orders.

Officer's Servant

I look after the Officer who is in charge of the Fort. I cook and clean for him and look after his horse. I spend a lot of time with him in the Fort.
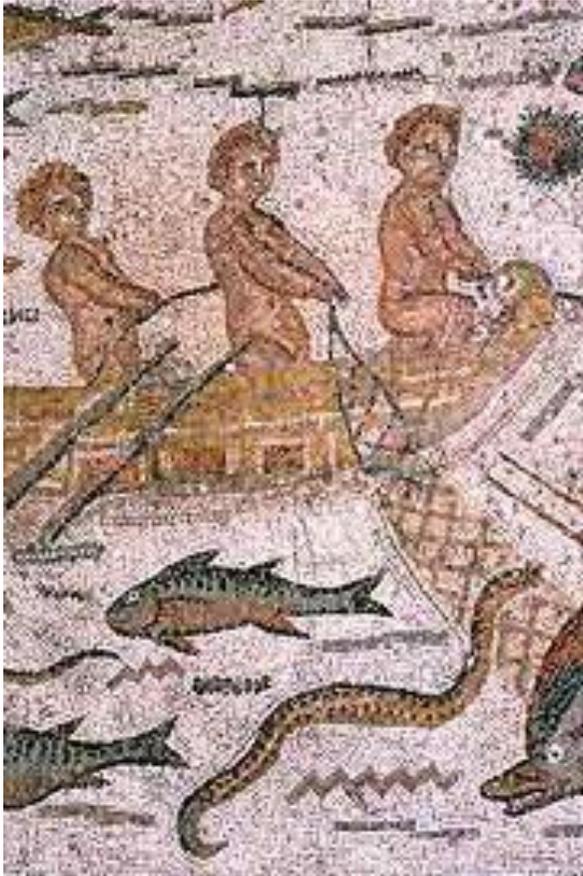
Imperial Messenger

Scout

My job is to pass messages between the forts of the Roman Army. I travel by horse or on foot. I have to make sure the right people get the right message. I do not fight in battles. My armour is only to protect me in case I am attacked by the enemy.

I ride in front of the rest of the army and spy on the enemy. Sometimes I go into their towns so that I can see what they are planning. I tell my Centurion what I have found out so that he can plan battle tactics.

Fisherman

My job is to catch fish to sell to the people living in the fort and the vicus.

Blacksmith

I make and mend lots of objects made from metal. I make horseshoes and mend weapons for the soldiers. I also do jobs for the people living in the vicus .

Soldier's Wife

I am the wife of one of the soldiers. I work hard running the home, cooking meals and looking after my children.

Baker

I make and sell bread to the soldiers in the fort and the people in the vicus

Farmer

I grow and sell food to the soldiers in the fort and the people in the vicus.

Soldier's Child

My father is a soldier in the army. I do not go to school. I have a pet dog and I spend my time helping my mother and playing with my toys.

Soldier

I am a Roman soldier and my job is to defend the Roman Empire. I fight to keep order and control in the areas we have occupied. I follow the orders of the Centurion and have to do a lot of training.

Merchant

I have many things that people use every day. I sell them to the soldiers in the fort and people in the vicus. These range from clothes and jewellery to furniture and ornaments.

Guard at the Gate Instructions

- Introduce the game to the group:

    In Roman times this field was divided into two areas, the Fort and the Vicus.

    The Fort was home to between 500 and 1000 Roman foot soldiers or up to 500 mounted soldiers and their horses.

    There are sentries at the gate to the Fort and their job is to decide who lives inside the fort and will be let in and who lives in the Vicus and will be kept out.

- Get the teacher/s to pick 2 sensible children – some who won't favour their friends - to be the Roman sentries.
- Each sentry is given a spear and told NOT to play with them! They stand where the (East) gate to the Fort is and bar the way with their spears by crossing them.
- The other children each take a character card and line up at the gate in front of the sentries.
- One by one the children read out their character card description.
- The 2 sentries decide whether they should be let in or kept out.
- If they decide they should be let in they should part their spears and let the character through the gate into the Fort. If they decide they should not be let in they must send the character back into the Vicus. These children should stand outside the fort walls.
- When all the children have read their cards, get them to stay where they are and, using the Answers Card, go through all the characters in turn telling the children where they should be standing ie. either in the Fort or outside in the Vicus. Make anyone in the wrong place move to where they should be.
- Ask the children to summarise who lives where - the Roman army lives in the Fort and everyone else lives in the Vicus.
- Then ask them:
    Do you/your characters get on with each other? Maybe
    Do you need each other? Yes – the army needs food etc and the people in the Vicus need protection etc.

Answers Card

Characters which DO gain access to the Fort:	Characters which DO NOT gain access to the Fort:
Centurion Officer's servant Imperial messenger Scout Soldier	Fisherman Blacksmith Baker Farmer Merchant Soldier's wife Soldier's child