

Dressed for

Success



In the world of medieval warfare, armour was a serious business. **What would you choose to see you through a battle?**

Investigate

Take a look at the objects listed on the next page. Use the links to explore the 3D Sketchfab models. Think about the following questions for each object.

1. What material would it have been made of?
2. How would it have been used?
3. Why would it be good in battle?
4. Why would it not be good in battle?
5. Rate it out of 10 (10 = best)

Decision time – If you had to go into battle with only 2 objects, which would you choose and why?

<p>Great Helm</p> 	<p>https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/ornamented-great-helm-7b2e7f7c809b46dca7e90da810223dc9/embed</p>
<p>Bascinet</p> 	<p>https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/ornamented-great-helm-7b2e7f7c809b46dca7e90da810223dc9/embed</p>
<p>Heater Shield</p> 	<p>https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/medieval-heater-shield-stylised-c68162e883da4485bf9c78a4f56c8bec/embed</p>
<p>Sallet</p> 	<p>https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/medieval-sallet-647a0902810d407f80717c1ccc8aab43/embed</p>
<p>Sword</p> 	<p>https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/medival-sword-d5a09b49fc2c4048ad34a8cc8fbd15ed/embed</p>
<p>Pig-faced bascinet</p> 	<p>https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/medieval-knight-bascinet-helmet-with-visor-c2ecef87aff24d72930fd9259061d7dc/embed</p>

Look at the four helmets below.

Which do you think is the earliest design and why?

Which is the latest?

Put them in order from the earliest (1) to the latest (4)



Design

Pick one of the objects you've explored. How would you change the design to make it more effective? Draw your design out on paper or try making it out of cardboard.

Object Information

Great Helm (Earliest helmet, 1)

This flat-topped helmet was commonly worn during the 13th and 14th centuries. It protected the wearer's whole head and face, with only small slits at the eyes for visibility and pierced breathing holes. This uncomfortable item was often only worn during the initial engagement in a battle and then taken off to allow greater freedom of movement and better vision. It went out of use for warfare and became more associated with tournaments.



Bascinet (Second earliest helmet, 2)

The bascinet was a skull-shaped open-faced medieval helmet worn from the 14th Century. The back of these close-fitting helmets often extended to protect the wearer's neck. This was called an aventail. A short cape of chain mail could also be attached to provide more protection.



Heater Shield

The shield could offer protection from close-combat attack and arrow-fire. Early round shields were mostly made of wood with a leather covering and metal edging. A central metal 'boss' could offer protection against blows or even be used to attack. The 'heater' shield became more popular after the 12th Century; it was easier to carry in battle but offered less protection, especially for the legs. Thin layers of wood were covered by leather and the shields could also be made of metal. This type of shield became more associated with tournaments later in the 14th Century. The later 'kite' shield was bigger and offered more protection for the legs.



Pig-faced bascinet (Second latest helmet, 3)

This type of helmet is a later 14th Century adaptation of the simple open-faced bascinet. The pivoted visor was added protection for the face, but could be raised up and down as required to allow a better view.



Sallet (Latest helmet, 4)

The sallet was a 15th Century helmet which replaced the bascinet and covered the upper face including the eyes. They could also have a pivoted visor. If open-faced, the sides of the helmet could be lowered to protect the lower face and neck and the back of the helmet extended down to protect the neck.



Sword

The medieval sword, sometimes referred to as a 'broadsword' was a heavy weapon with two cutting edges and designed to cut or slice the enemy in close hand-to-hand combat. Knights were required to undergo extensive training in using swords for battle. The later basket-hilt broadswords from the 16th Century covered the handle in order to protect the hand.

