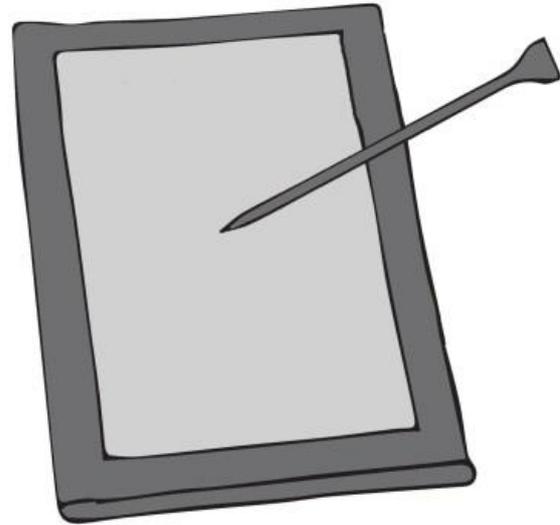
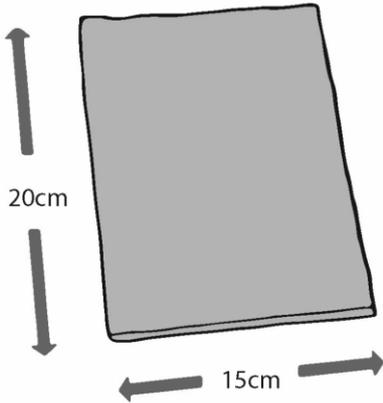
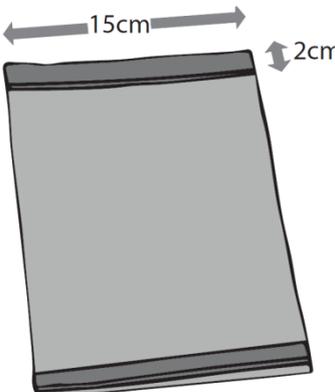
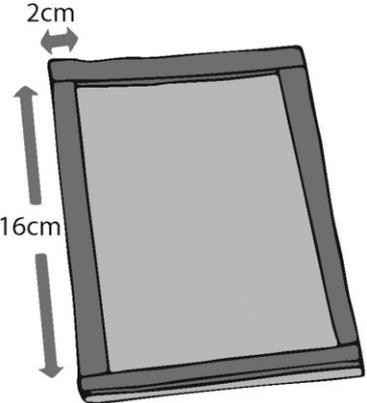


MAKE A ROMAN WAX-TABLET

You will need:

- Thick cardboard (from a packing box)
- PVA Glue and brush
- Brown poster paint and paint brush
- 4 small votive candles ('nightlights')
- Scissors
- A heatproof jug
- A heatproof bowl
- A microwave
- Oven glove
- A sharp pencil



 <p>20cm</p> <p>15cm</p> <p>1.</p> <p>Cut a rectangle of cardboard measuring 20cm x 15cm. This forms the base.</p>	 <p>15cm</p> <p>2cm</p> <p>2.</p> <p>Cut two strips of cardboard measuring 20cm x 2cm. Glue them securely to the top and bottom edge of the base.</p>	 <p>2cm</p> <p>16cm</p> <p>3.</p> <p>Cut two strips of cardboard measuring 16cm x 2cm. Glue them securely to the base to make a frame.</p>
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4.

Paint a thick layer of PVA glue around the inside of the frame, making sure to block any gaps in the cardboard. This will stop the wax leaking when you pour it in. Leave to dry completely.



5.

Paint both front and back of the tablet using brown poster paint so that it looks like wood. Leave to dry completely.



6.

Prepare the votive candles by removing their metal casings, wicks and metal discs underneath. Put the candles inside a heatproof jug, and stand the jug inside a heatproof bowl. If it has the right sort of handle, hang the jug from the edge of the bowl.

Fill the bowl (**not the jug!**) with enough water to reach halfway up the candles. Do not overfill the bowl, or the water may bubble up into the wax and spoil it.

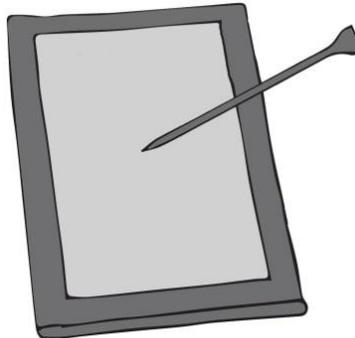
Microwave the bowl, jug and wax together for **10 minutes**. Allow it to stand until any remaining lumps have melted.



7.

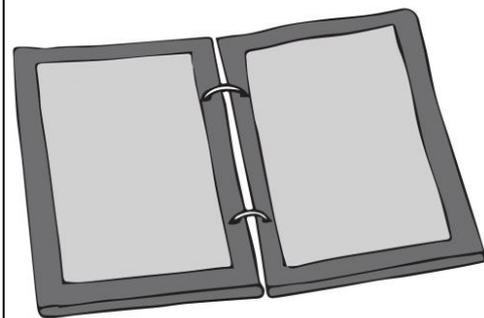
Remove bowl from the microwave using an oven glove, take out the jug and dry its base thoroughly.

Put the tablet on a flat surface (weigh-down the corners if your cardboard is a bit curly). Carefully pour the hot wax onto the tablet, until it fills the frame. Leave to harden completely.



8.

Once the wax has hardened, your tablet is ready to use! Use a sharp pencil or knitting needle to scratch words into the wax and write like a Roman.



9.

If you would like more room for your messages, you can join two tablets together to make a *diptych*.

With the point of a pencil, carefully made two holes in the frames of your tablets and tie them loosely together with string.