

## Lead slingshot



<b>Date</b>	41/40 BC
<b>Material</b>	Lead
<b>How was it made?</b>	It was cast in a mould. The inscription and picture were scratched inside the mould before pouring.
<b>What is it for?</b>	Firing at enemy soldiers from a sling.
<b>Where is it from?</b>	Perusia (modern Perugia, in Italy)
<b>What does it say?</b>	<b>Text</b> RVFVS ° IMP Rufus Imp(erator)  <b>Translation</b> 'Rufus, Commander'

### More information:

- The image on the reverse of this bullet represents a thunderbolt. The bullet is meant to be equally sudden and painful.
- Writing names on bullets was a way of taunting opposing soldiers - letting them know who had hurt them. Often bullets are marked with rude jokes.
- The bullet weighs 53.14 grammes - heavy for something so small.

**Topics to investigate:** How a Roman sling worked and how effective it was as a weapon; The role of auxiliaries in the Roman Army; Roman ideas about thunder and lightning; The siege of Perusia - who was involved and what happened?