

TAKE  
**ONE**  
PICTURE

**Look**

**Imagine**



**Think**

**Create!**



Let's have another look at  
The Battle of San Romano

Can you remember who the artist was?



That's right - the artist was Paolo Uccello

## Let's recap – what is the picture about?



Talk to someone close to you – what can you remember about this picture?

Who were the two sides battling?

Where did the battle take place?

What were they fighting about?

Who won?

This painting shows a battle between the troops of Florence and Siena in Italy.

The city of Florence wanted to control a wider area so it went to war with a city on the coast, Lucca, so that it could be in a better position to do trade. But Lucca had allies (friendly cities who had agreed to help defend it) – Siena, Pisa and Milan - who then threatened to surround Florence and cut it off from the coast completely. So Florence went to war with Siena and, thanks to reinforcements arriving late in the day, Florence won.

Let's look at the items they are using for battle



What items can you see that would only be used in a battle?

Write down as many as you can spot

banners (flags)

lances (pole for jousting)

ceremonial trumpet

helmet

armour

shield

other weapons:  
hammer

What is the purpose of each of these things? Why would they be used in a battle?

**Let's  
sketch!**



There is a large  
version of the picture  
on the next page

We are going to try some quick sketches of this picture to get to know it even better.

Look at this picture for 2 minutes. At the end of this time you are going to try to sketch the picture – you will only have 3 minutes to do as much as you can. Don't worry that this is a short period of time – we are not expecting you to draw all the detail – just the main parts. Which part will you focus on? The foreground? The horses? The man in the centre (remember his name is **Niccolò da Tolentino**)?



For an extra challenge try sketching without taking your pencil off the paper!

Just look for 2 minutes



Now sketch for 3 minutes





Look at the helmets in  
Battle of San Romano in  
more detail

Aren't these helmets fancy?

Do you think all the helmets in the actual battle would have  
been so decorative?

Here are examples of other medieval helmets

What does a helmet need to do to be effective?

It needs to protect its wearer



If you had to go into battle which of these helmets would you wear and why? Tell someone close to you

Would you like to wear one of these?

Would it be comfortable?

Do you think you could easily see your enemy?

## Activity 1

# MAKE YOUR OWN BATTLE HELMET

You will need lots of cardboard, some glue, tape or staples, a piece of string.

Cut a long, wide strip of cardboard. Wrap it around your head just above your eyes and mark where it starts to overlap. This is your headband. Cut it a little longer than this length, then tape or staple it so it fits your head size.

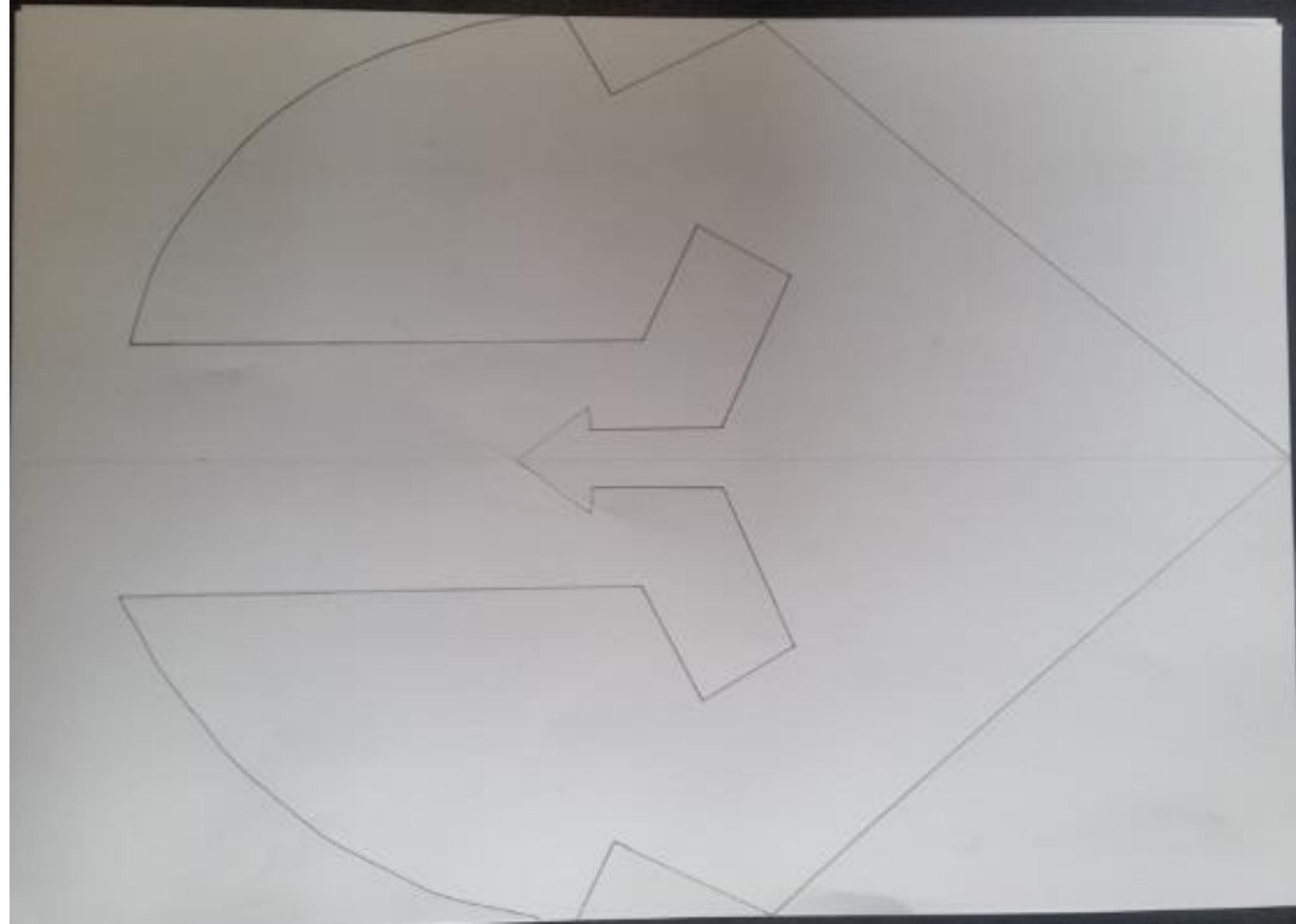
Take 2 narrower strips of cardboard. Tape/ staple the first one to the front of the headband . Put the head band on your head then wrap the narrow strip of cardboard across the top of your head to the back and mark where it starts to overlap the headband and tape/ staple it to the **headband**. Do the same with the second band going from ear to ear. The two narrow strips should form a cross and this gives you the basis for your helmet.

Using a large piece of cardboard, about A4 size, mark out the front of your helmet – you will need to make sure that you leave some spaces for eyes and that you have a central nose piece and covering for the rest of your face. Mark the centre line down the middle of your piece of cardboard. Take a piece of string then carefully take it from the outside edge of your right eye to the outside edge of your left eye – this is the eye width - you can mark this on your cardboard. Draw in the gaps for your eye spaces and then mark where your nose and cheek protectors will go. (You can design your own or use the template on the next page to help you). Glue, staple or tape this **facemask** to your headband.

You can use your imagination to add **extra details** and make the helmet your own – look at the helmets in the picture of Battle of San Romano for inspiration. You could use more cardboard, feathers, textiles etc. Maybe use recycled materials.

How will you **decorate** your helmet? – you could wrap it with aluminium foil for a metal effect, paint it or even collage from newspaper or magazines cut up into small pieces. **HAVE FUN!!!**





## Activity 2

### MAKE A TRUMPET

You will need:

2 pieces of A4 paper/ thin card

A round pencil or felt tip pen to roll the paper around

Sellotape

A drinking straw

Starting at a corner roll one piece of paper around the felt tip pen, remove the pen and secure with a piece of tape.

Cut the second piece of paper in half then roll one half around the pen , remove the pen and secure with a piece of tape. Flatten this tube then fold into thirds. Bend the ends backwards so that you get this shape. This is your trumpet's handle



Wrap the other half of your halved paper around your index finger to make a cone shape and fasten with tape. Attach this to one end of your long thin roll of paper. Take your trumpet handle and attach halfway along your trumpet.

With your drinking straw cut a piece diagonally from the end and slide into the thin end of your trumpet. Seal it well with tape without any gap to hold the straw.

Now you can decorate and blow your trumpet!

Watch this fun video to help you <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1N6DWqb2d-I>



But it is not just the soldiers who have fancy battle ornaments – let's look at the horses!



The horses are wearing golden horse tack - **tack** is equipment or accessories put on horses such as saddles, stirrups, bridles, halters, reins, bits, harnesses, and breastplates



Look at all the different types of decorative horse tack that was used in medieval times. Which do you think were more practical in protecting the horses?



Look at the detail on the horse tack in The Battle of San Romano.



### Activity 3

## MAKE SOME DECORATIVE HORSE TACK

You will need:

A piece of paper 30cm x 4cm

A piece of aluminium kitchen foil about 30cm x30cm

Blunt pencil

On your piece of paper design your own horse tack

Fold your foil in half and then half again and then in half **again**, so that you have a strip of foil which is 8 layers thick. The more layers you have the deeper your embossing can be.

Now put your foil on top of an exercise book or a newspaper so that it is on a soft base. Take your pencil and copy your design onto foil to make your own horse tack, pressing quite hard so that you emboss your pattern but not so hard that you tear the foil.

You do not have to stick with a rectangle – you could use squares or draw circles and pad them out with more foil underneath. Use your imagination and have fun!

