

**British Museum partners with  
*Horrible Histories* for  
forthcoming exhibition  
*Legion: life in the Roman army***

1 February – 23 June 2024  
The Sainsbury Exhibitions Gallery

Images: <https://bit.ly/45tRvBS>

---

**LONDON, 19 January:** The British Museum is for the first time partnering with *Horrible Histories*, author Terry Deary and illustrator Martin Brown's bestselling book series, to engage children in its upcoming exhibition *Legion: life in the Roman army*.

Through a specially designed *Horrible Histories* themed trail of the exhibition, alongside a variety of family interactive stations en route, children of all ages will be guided through the show, led by *Horrible Histories*' beloved character, Rattus.

Rattus, who will be playfully renamed Claudius Terrattus, will take younger visitors on his journey of becoming a soldier in the Roman army and the trials and tribulations faced by those serving 2,000 years ago. Through the course of the special exhibition trail, Rattus explains his ambition to become a Roman soldier, the dangers and difficulties he could face and the riches and rewards he could receive. Carefully chosen family-friendly exhibition objects will be highlighted along the way, accompanied by commentary from Rattus himself.

Rattus' story mirrors the overarching themes of the exhibition itself, with a focus on the personal experiences of individuals, appreciating that despite the risks, the Roman army offered an exceptional way for people from different backgrounds and from different parts of the empire to advance themselves.

The partnership aims to inspire younger visitors and instil a curiosity of what life was really like for people during Imperial Rome, all through the lens of a much-loved children's brand now celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

***Horrible Histories*' author Terry Deary** comments: "Since the earliest days of *Horrible Histories*, *Rotten Romans* continues to be one of the most popular books and it's no wonder as Roman life could be really horrible. But life in the Roman army was even worse – tough, dangerous and dirty (and that's just the terrible toilets in the forts). I am glad that *Horrible Histories* will encourage families and children to engage with history at the British Museum and think about the real people who lived through it."

***Horrible Histories*' illustrator Martin Brown** comments: "After 30 years illustrating *Horrible Histories*, it's great to see Rattus pop up in the British Museum with his rat's-eye view of life in the Roman army. I hope everyone enjoys delving into some fascinatingly foul facts and exploring the utterly amazing artefacts on display – *Horrible Histories*-style."

**Richard Abdy, Curator of Roman and Iron Age coins** comments: "Fun facts are well-remembered facts, so a pinch of humour is a welcome ingredient. *Horrible Histories* excels at entertaining while reminding kids of all ages that history can be a lot grimmer than the popular imagination – the perfect antidote to a show on the Roman army."

*Legion: life in the Roman army* will run from 1 February – 23 June 2024 in the Sainsbury Exhibitions Gallery at the British Museum. Children under 16 can enter free of charge when accompanied by a paying adult, check our website for further details. The exhibition will look at what it was like to be in one of the most iconic fighting forces of all time, exploring the reality of daily life for the men, women and children who were part of the machine which allowed Rome to master its vast empire.

For more information, please visit the [Legion exhibition webpage](#). The exhibition is supported by Graham and Joanna Barker, Hugh and Catherine Stevenson and Christian Levett.

---

### More about *Horrible Histories*:

Written by Terry Deary and illustrated by Martin Brown, *Horrible Histories*® (published by Scholastic) is the world's bestselling children's history book series which continues to be a pioneering brand with unique child, family and crossover appeal. The books celebrated 30 Horrible Years in 2023 and *Horrible Histories: Rotten Romans* continues to be one of the bestselling titles. *Horrible Histories: The Worst in the World* was published in 2023 to mark the anniversary.

Distinctively funny, unbelievably factual, irresistible for kids (and big kids) and always horrible, the books changed history and have been described as: 'a cultural phenomenon' (*Daily Telegraph*), 'a winning formula' (*Evening Standard*) and 'the cultural behemoth that has been merrily illustrating the gruesome corners of the past since 1993' (*The Times*).

The series has inspired: *Horrible Histories: Rotten Romans* feature film; the BAFTA-winning *Horrible Histories* TV series (in its 10<sup>th</sup> season); *Horrible Histories: Barmy Britain* and many other sell-out stage-shows; *Horrible Histories: Terrible Thames* riverboat tour; attractions such as *Horrible Histories Maze* at Warwick Castle; touring exhibition *Horrible Histories Pirates: The Exhibition* at the National Museum of the Royal Navy; *Horrible Histories Mystery Museum* escape room in Liverpool and BBC Prom 'Orrible Opera which launched in 2023.

### Notes to Editors:

Open Saturday to Thursday 10.00–17.00, Friday 10.00–20.30. Last entry 90 mins before closing. Tickets from £17, under-16s free when accompanied by a paying adult, 2-for-1 tickets for students on Fridays, and concessions and group rates available.



Follow updates via Facebook, X and Instagram

@britishmuseum

For more, follow the British Museum blog at [blog.britishmuseum.org](https://blog.britishmuseum.org)

### Further information

Contact the Communications team: [communications@britishmuseum.org](mailto:communications@britishmuseum.org)