

Greek Weapons





The Greeks used some fearsome weapons, such as swords and giant crossbows armed with iron tipped arrows and huge catapults that hurled lumps of rock at enemy walls.



The spear was the preferred weapon for Greeks. The pointed end was very sharp, and the wooden handle was over 2 metres long. The spear was used in many ways.

Holding the spear or bracing it against the ground, the enemy impales himself.



- The spear is thrust out with the arms alone.
- The spear is held stiffly, and the thrust is delivered by stepping forward.
- The spear is thrown at its target.



Swords. The Greek swords were dual-purpose weapons with leaf-shaped blades. These blades were designed for both cutting and thrusting.

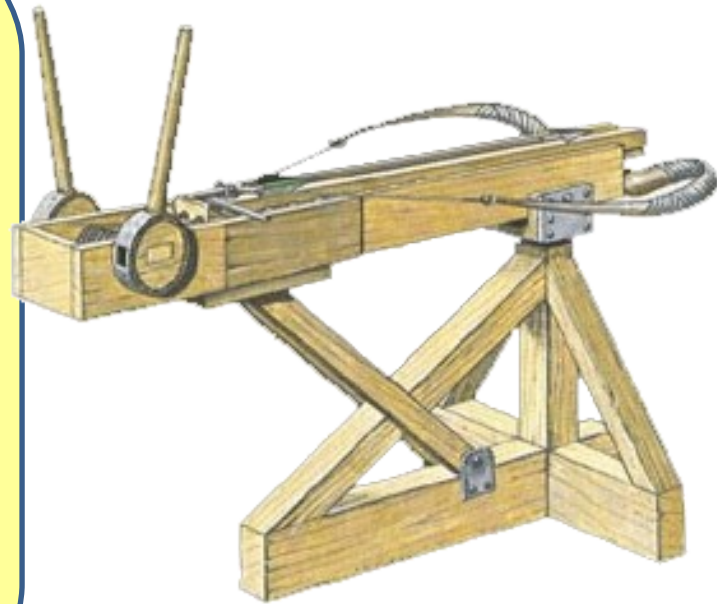
Swords were very much a weapon of second choice, drawn only once a hoplite's spear had been shattered in the spear-fighting. They had a heavy single-edged blade. Greek swords usually feature fancy hilts and a scabbard decorated with ancient Greek scenes.

Swords were often gold finished honouring one of the ancient world's greatest warrior kings- Alexander. The hoplite sword was essentially a slashing weapon and was generally worn slung from a baldric over the right shoulder so that it hung almost horizontally on the left.





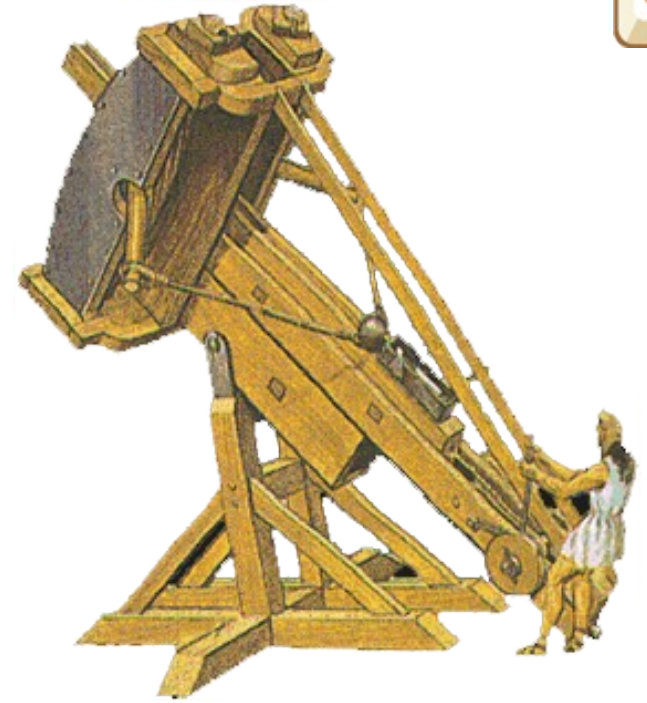
Giant Crossbows. A crossbow is a bow mounted on a stick (called a tiller or stock) with a mechanism in it which holds the drawn bow string. The arrow-like projectiles of a crossbow are called bolts.



These are much shorter than arrows, but can be several times heavier. The weapon was powered by a bow. It was cocked by resting the stomach in a concavity at the rear of the stock and pressing down with all strength.



Catapults. The catapult is a device that hurls heavy objects or arrows over a large distance. It was invented in ancient Greece in 399 BC by Dionysius the Elder of Syracuse.



The catapult (also called the ballista) was a major weapon of warfare for well over a thousand years. It worked by storing tension either in twisted ropes or in a flexed piece of wood.