

What can we learn about Greek soldiers?



Fight!

- Fighting for your country or state was one of the greatest commitments a young male could make.
- Having a strong, feared army was vital to ensure you were able to defend yourself, and to discourage others from attacking.
- Soldiers were trained from an early age in the art of warfare, weapon making and hunting.
- Legendary tales have been told of battles between thousands of men at sea and on land.

What did they wear?

The soldiers wore breastplates, helmets, and greaves to protect their legs. Their shields were carefully packed away until needed as these would often be expensive to make and would be one of the most important defence tools available to a soldier.



This vase painting shows a boy bringing a shield in ready for use while another helps a soldier with his greaves.





What does this
show you?

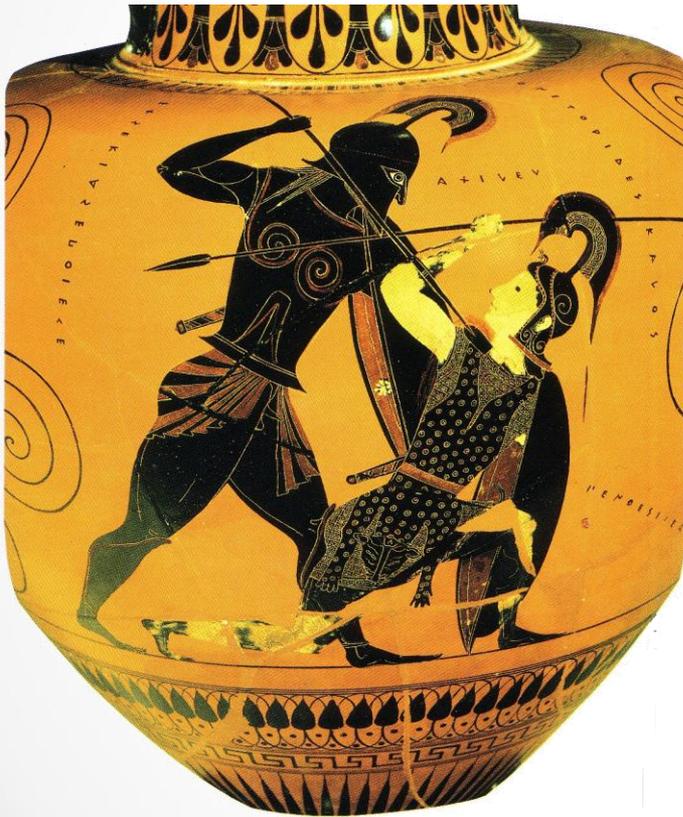


Animals would need equipment too. Protecting the horses was vital for soldiers, as they would carry the majority of food, equipment and charge into battle.

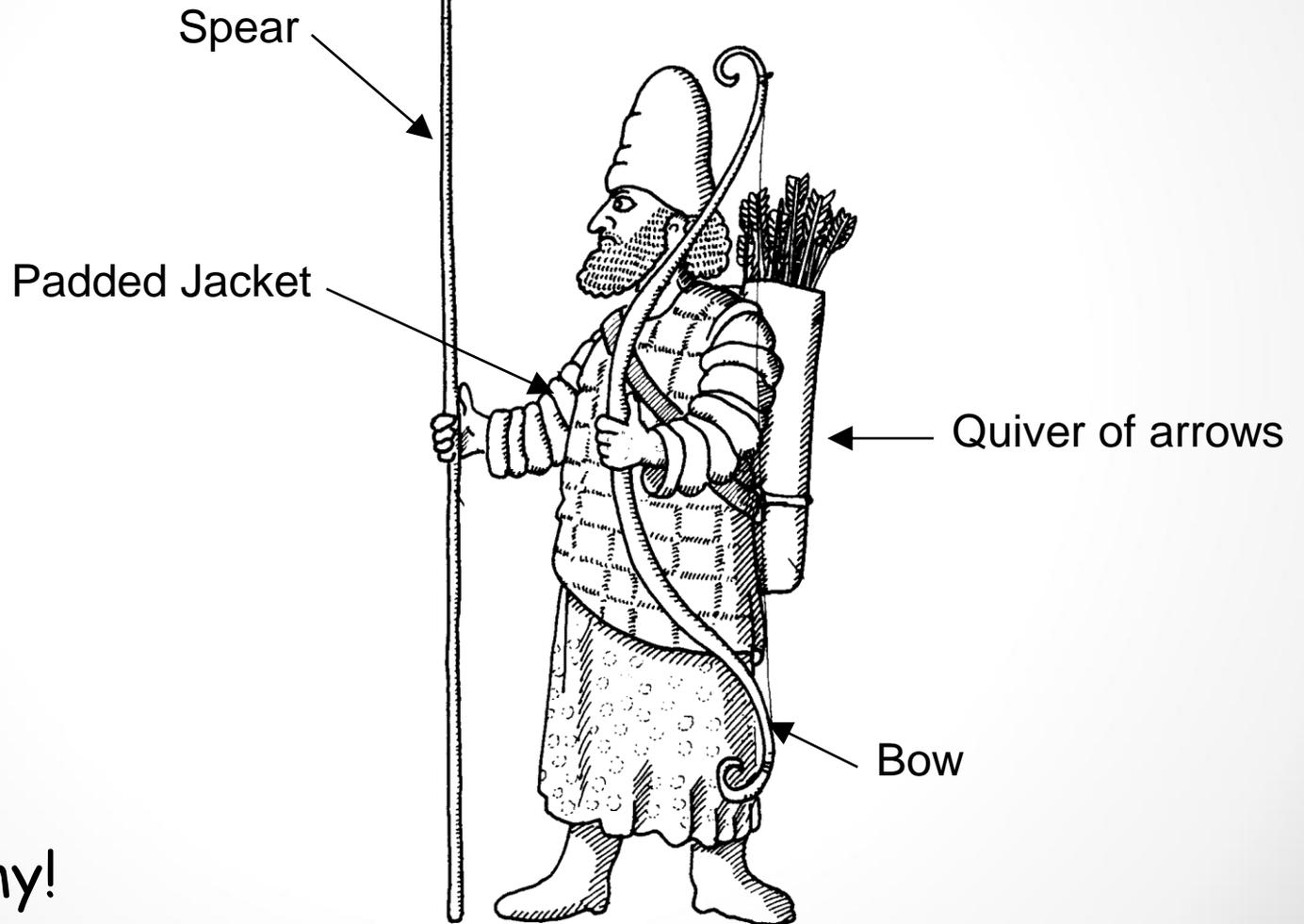


A Greek foot soldier was called a hoplite. He wore a linen shirt with metal armour plates on the shoulders. A bronze breastplate covered his chest and stomach, and greaves (shin guards) covered his legs. He wore a bronze helmet with a tall crest on his head. The hoplite carried a round shield and a spear. Around his waist was a belt with a short sword. Hoplites fought in close formation. Greek soldiers had to pay for their own armour and weapons. If you could not afford to buy armour and weapons you could still serve in the army as a stone-thrower or archer.

To die for your state was an honour. Soldiers would hope to be remembered for being brave and fearless, even in death.



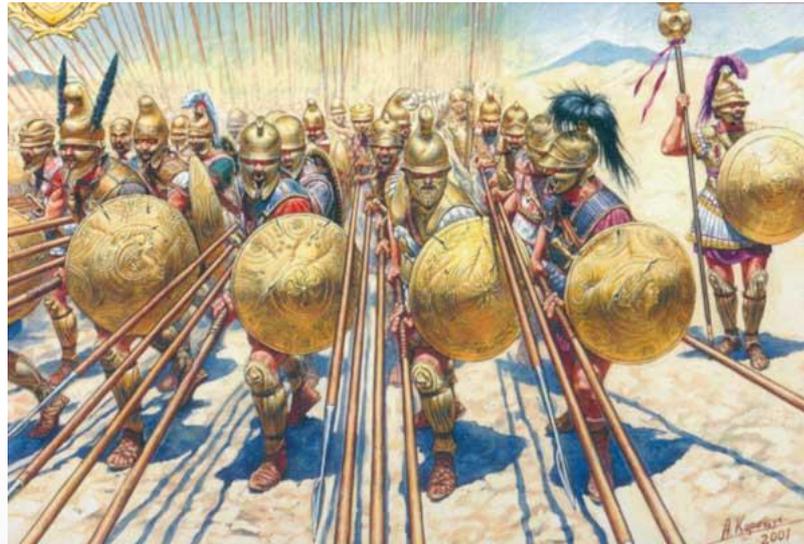
A Persian Soldier



The enemy!

The Phalanx

- Throughout history, battles have been won through effective strategy. One of the most successful strategies used by the Spartans was called the Phalanx formation.
- This required every man fighting to be responsible for the soldier to the right of him. Covering himself and his fellow soldier enabled a strong 'shell' to form around the soldiers, effective against archers and in battle.
- A downside to this was the exposed left flank. Soldiers would be most vulnerable here and it was vital that the soldiers remained a tight unit.



Your task...

- You must reproduce your very own Spartan soldier! You must label and colour your soldier diagram.
- In your books, can you label the correct equipment?

Key words to include...



• **linen shirts**

metal armour plates

chest

bronze breast plate

stomach

shoulders

greaves (shin guards)

spear

bronze helmet

tall crest

shield

belt

sword

armour

weapons

formation