

SHIELDS AND SWORDS

The shields that the Mycenaean used were made of oxhide stretched over a wooden frame. There were three different shapes. Shields were large and heavy, and warriors carried them into battle slung on their backs.



Shield shaped like the number eight



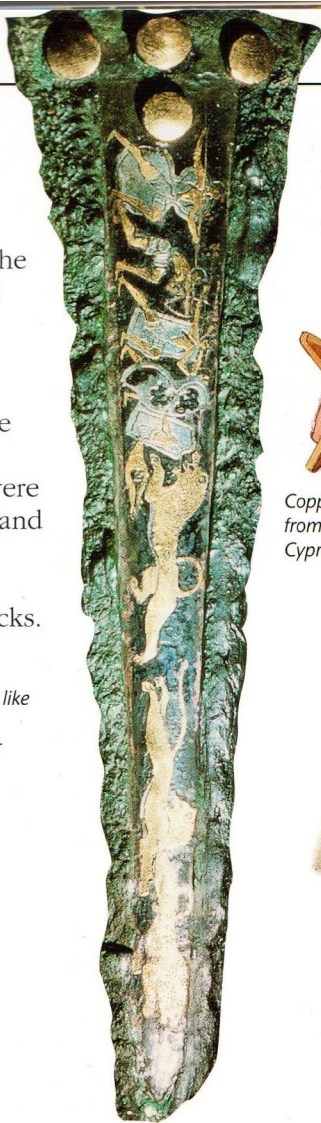
Tower shield



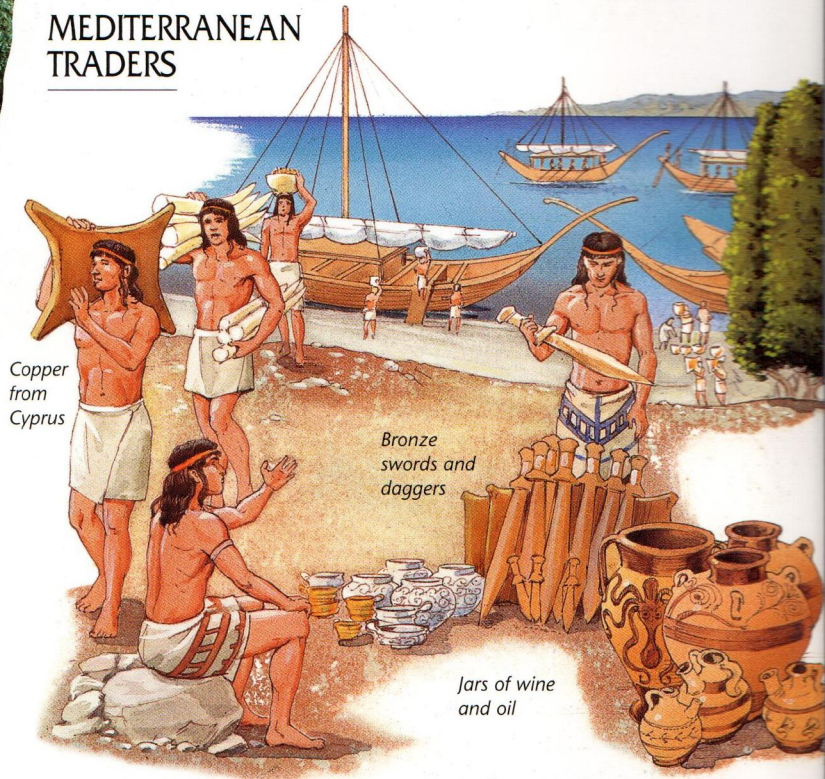
Round shield

Daggers and swords were made from bronze. Some were highly decorated and look similar to those found on Crete. They may even have been made on the island.

A Mycenaean gold sword hilt. Above is a bronze dagger, inlaid with a scene of a lion hunt.



MEDITERRANEAN TRADERS



This scene from a Mycenaean port shows traders unloading goods.

The Mycenaean were great traders. At first, there was fierce competition from the Minoans, but after the Mycenaean invaded Crete, they took over the Minoan trade for themselves. They had trading posts all along the eastern Mediterranean coast - in Asia Minor (now Turkey) and Lebanon - but they also traded goods from as far away as Scandinavia and Africa.

The Mycenaean world in 1400BC

