

Greek soldiers climbing out of the Trojan horse in the dead of night

FACT OR FICTION?

According to Homer, Troy stood overlooking the Hellespont – a channel of water that separates Asia Minor and Europe. In the 1870s, Heinrich Schliemann (see page 160) set out to find it.

Following Homer's description, he started to dig at Hisarlik in Turkey, and uncovered the ruins of several cities, built one on top of the other. Several of the cities had been destroyed violently, but it is not clear which was the Troy of Homer's legend. Experts are now certain, though, that Troy was a real place.

PRIAM'S TREASURE

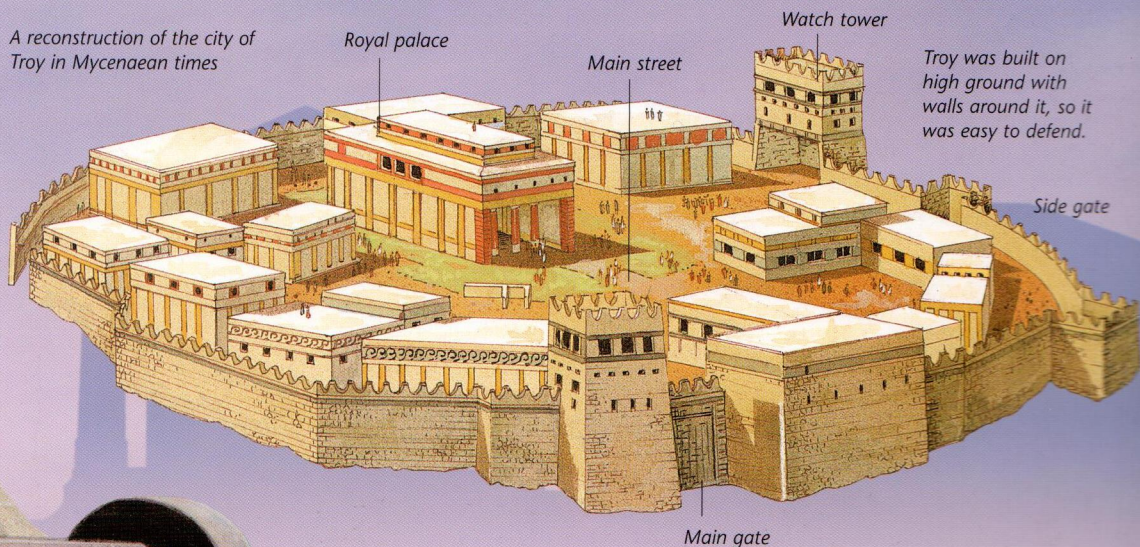
In 1873, Schliemann made an incredible discovery. He found a copper bowl, which turned out to have a hoard of gold, jewels, weapons and ornaments inside. He nicknamed it Priam's Treasure.



This photograph of Schliemann's wife Sophia wearing the jewels was for many years the only record of them that existed.

Although Schliemann believed the treasure to date back to the Trojan War, it was in fact more recent - but it was still a remarkable find, and revealed much about ancient metalworking. It was lost in the chaos at the end of World War Two, but has recently resurfaced in Russia.

A reconstruction of the city of Troy in Mycenaean times



Royal palace

Main street

Watch tower

Troy was built on high ground with walls around it, so it was easy to defend.

Side gate

Main gate