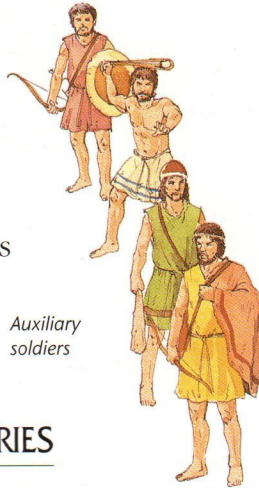


GREEK ARMIES



Cavalry soldier

At the beginning of the Archaic Period, the most important part of any Greek army was the cavalry - the soldiers on horseback. Soldiers had to provide their own horses and weapons, so early armies were dominated by rich men who could afford to do this.



Auxiliary soldiers

SIEGE WARFARE

In wartime, a common tactic was to lay siege to a city by surrounding it - even going to the lengths of building walls around it. The idea was to starve the city into submission - although this could take months. In 305-304BC, the city of Rhodes managed to hold out for a year against the Macedonian army, which was eventually forced to withdraw.



INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can examine battle scenes on a Greek pot, and see pictures of Greek weapons, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com

FOOT SOLDIERS

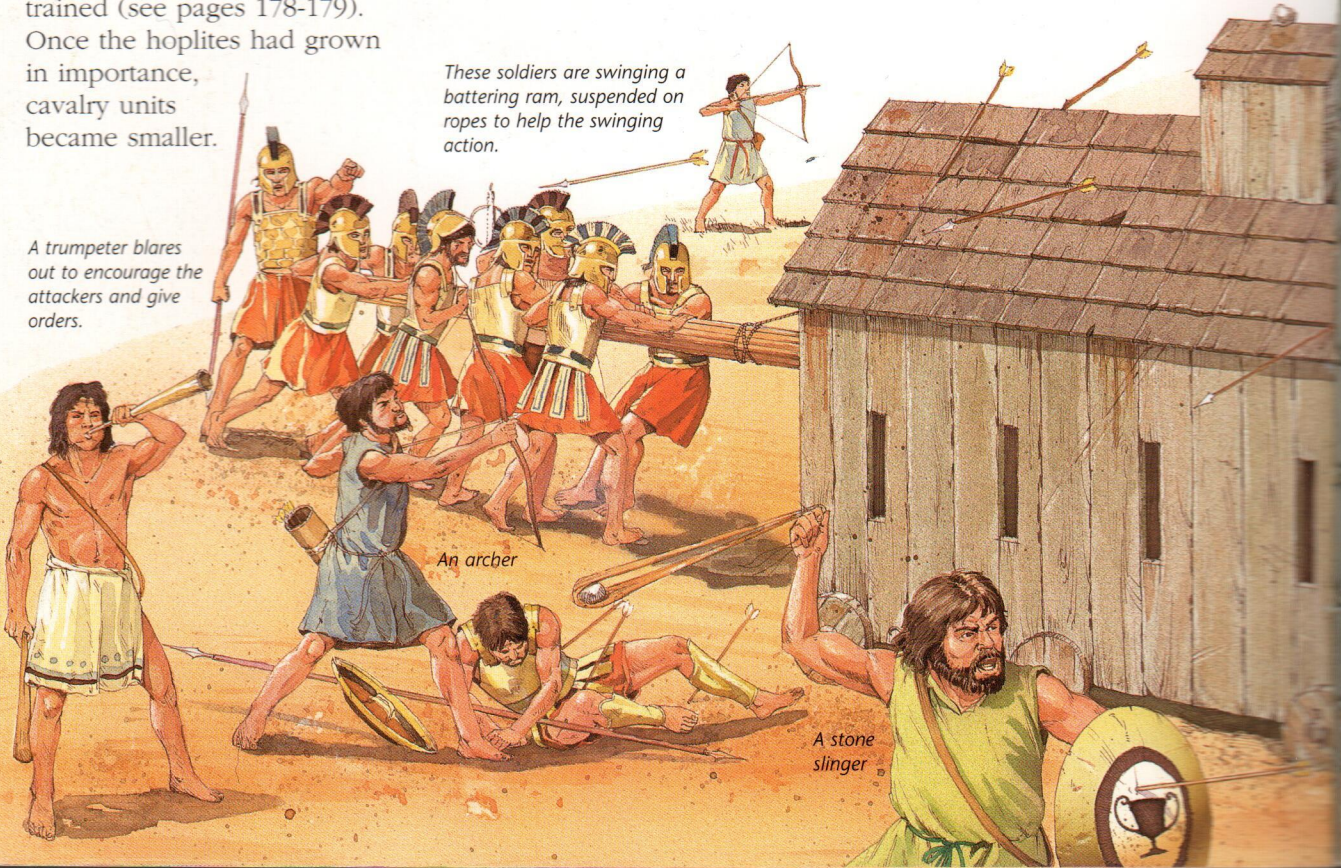
In these early times, foot soldiers tended to be fairly poor, so their weapons and equipment were poor as well. By the 7th century BC, however, there was a new elite class of foot soldiers, called hoplites, who were better equipped and better trained (see pages 178-179). Once the hoplites had grown in importance, cavalry units became smaller.

AUXILIARIES

Poor men who could not afford the full battle kit and weapons of a hoplite soldier usually served instead in lightly armed auxiliary units. These units included archers, stone slingers, and men called *psiloi*, who were armed with clubs and stones.

A trumpeter blares out to encourage the attackers and give orders.

These soldiers are swinging a battering ram, suspended on ropes to help the swinging action.



An archer

A stone slinger