

A NEW EMPIRE

The Hittites themselves came under attack from the Sea Peoples, around 1200BC. After this, the Assyrians began to regain power. By around 900BC, they had built up an efficient army, which they sent on raids, to demand payment from nearby countries.



These Assyrian arrowheads were used to attack the city of Lachish.

This kept the borders of Assyria secure, and supplied important goods, like metal and timber, which the Assyrians did not have in their own lands. It also created a powerful new Assyrian empire, which is often known as the second, or 'great', empire.

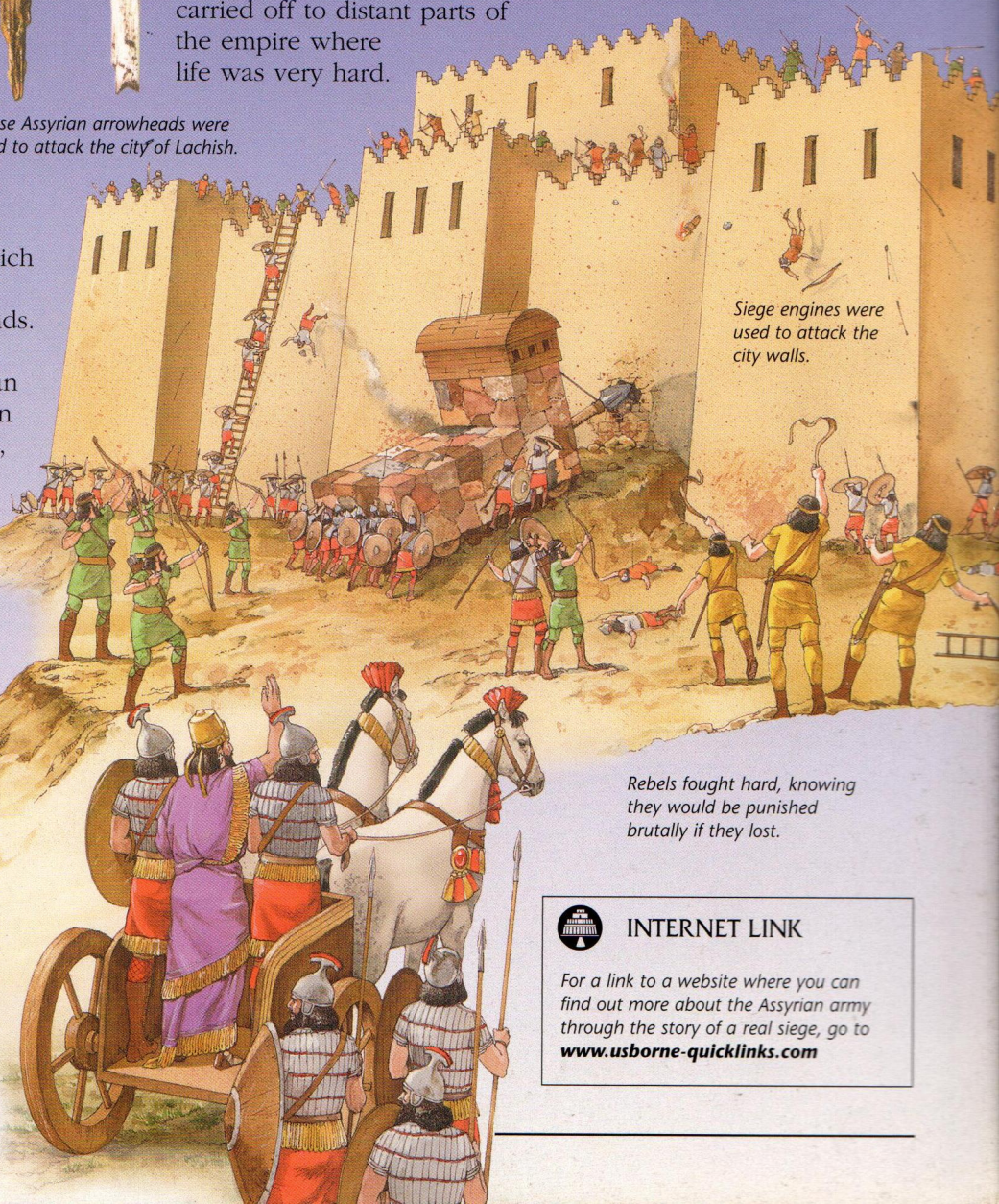
This scene shows the Assyrian army attacking a rebel city.

THE ASSYRIAN ARMY

To keep their subjects under control, the Assyrian army inflicted terrible punishments on anyone who rebelled against the empire. Whole cities were razed to the ground and the ringleaders tortured and killed horribly. Ordinary citizens were made into slaves, or carried off to distant parts of the empire where life was very hard.

BATTLE STATIONS

The Assyrian army was divided up into different kinds of soldiers. Foot soldiers might be lightly armed with bows and arrows or slings, or more heavily armed with spears and shields. The cavalry rode horses without saddles or stirrups, or drove chariots with three or four men to a chariot.



Siege engines were used to attack the city walls.

Rebels fought hard, knowing they would be punished brutally if they lost.

The king gave commands from his chariot.



INTERNET LINK

For a link to a website where you can find out more about the Assyrian army through the story of a real siege, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com