

Ancient Egypt – War and Conflict

Ancient Egypt was a powerful civilisation that lasted for thousands of years, partly because of its strong and well-organised army. The pharaoh was the supreme commander of the armed forces and was believed to have been chosen by the gods to lead and protect Egypt.

Egyptian soldiers were trained professionals who used a range of weapons including bows and arrows, spears, axes, and khopesh swords — curved blades that became symbols of military power. The army was divided into different units, including infantry (foot soldiers) and chariot units. Chariots were fast, horse-drawn vehicles that gave archers a great advantage on the battlefield.

One of the most famous conflicts in Egyptian history was the Battle of Kadesh, fought around 1274 BC between Pharaoh Ramesses II and the Hittite Empire. It is considered one of the earliest well-documented battles in history. Despite a fierce fight, neither side achieved a clear victory. However, Ramesses had the story of the battle carved onto temple walls, presenting himself as triumphant.

The conflict eventually led to one of the world's first known peace treaties, signed between Egypt and the Hittites. This showed that the Egyptians understood that diplomacy — finding peaceful solutions — could be just as powerful as warfare.

Questions

1. What was the pharaoh's role in the Egyptian army?
2. What did the Egyptian people believe about their pharaoh?
3. What was a khopesh sword?
4. Name the two main types of units in the Egyptian army.
5. What advantage did chariots give Egyptian soldiers?
6. When did the Battle of Kadesh take place?
7. Who were the Egyptians fighting at the Battle of Kadesh?
8. What did Ramesses II do to record the battle?
9. What important agreement came out of the conflict with the Hittites?
10. Why do you think Ramesses II chose to have the battle carved on temple walls, even though he did not clearly win?



Text C Quiz



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