

## A Greek Soldier

In ancient Greece, soldiers known as **hoplites** were some of the most feared warriors in the ancient world. They were citizen soldiers, which means they were ordinary men — farmers, craftsmen, and traders — who also trained to fight for their city-state.

A hoplite wore a set of armour called a **panoply**. This included a bronze helmet, a breastplate to protect the chest, and greaves to cover the legs. He carried a long spear called a **dory** and a large round shield called an **aspis**.

Hoplites fought in a tight battle formation called a **phalanx**. Soldiers lined up in rows, their shields overlapping to form a wall. Together they advanced on the enemy as one powerful force. Each soldier depended on the man beside him for protection.

Greek city-states, like Athens and Sparta, each had their own armies of hoplites. Sparta was especially famous for producing highly trained and disciplined soldiers.

## Questions

1. What were ancient Greek soldiers called?
2. What does "citizen soldier" mean?
3. What was the full set of armour called?
4. What metal was the helmet made from?
5. What were greaves used for?
6. What was the hoplite's spear called?
7. What was the name of the hoplite's shield?
8. What was the phalanx?
9. Name two Greek city-states mentioned in the text.
10. Why do you think each soldier depended on the man beside him?



Text B Quiz



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