

Hoplite description

A hoplite was the most common type of heavily armed foot-soldier in ancient Greece from the 7th to the 4th century BC. Most Greek men who lived in the city-states would be expected to equip themselves with weapons, armour and a shield in times of war. Sparta, however was the exception because it maintained a professional army. This meant their training would be variable, and not always sufficient.

Hoplites were equipped with a long wooden spear (doru), which was an average of 2.5 m long and was fitted with a bronze or iron blade. They also had a short sword (xiphos) which measured no more than 60 cm long. Their armour consisted of a leatherlined helmet, which may have had a crest on it and came in several different designs to protect their head, face and neck. Their chest would be protected by a breastplate (thorax), made of bronze or leather and greaves to protect their shins. A large circular shield of approximately 80 cm would be held, and could weigh as much as 8 kg; it was sometimes decorated to feature a design, such as the inverted V of Sparta or the gorgon.



Comparing Ancient Greek Hoplite to soldiers today

Same	Different