**Hoplites**

**POWERPOINT NOTES**

1. This picture on a pot in the British Museum shows a Greek soldier. Greek soldiers were called hoplites.
2. Hoplites fought side by side in a long line (called a phalanx). Each soldier had a large round shield (hoplon) which he held with the left hand. This covered his left side and the right side of the soldier next to him. It was very important that everyone stayed close together and that the line of hoplites did not break.
3. We are going to look at the hoplite’s equipment. What things can you see in this picture?
4. Reveal the labels.
5. The hoplite was heavily armed. What weapons can you see?
6. Sword and spear – these are a soldier’s offensive weapons which he uses to attack.

The short sword and scabbard hang on a strap across the soldier’s chest. He uses his right hand to pull the sword out of the scabbard and fight.

The spear would be wooden with a metal tip – it would be about 2 metres long and was used for stabbing rather than throwing. Earlier soldiers had two spears one for throwing and one for stabbing.

1. The bottom of the spear had a heavy bronze point. This is an example from the Great North Museum – the wooden spear would fit inside. This point let the soldier balance his spear and it could also be used for killing enemies or standing the spear in the ground.
2. What did the hoplite use to protect himself?
3. Helmet, shield, leg guards (greaves) and body armour (a cuirass or breastplate).

This soldier wears a cuirass – made of sheets of linen stuck together.

These are a soldier’s defensive weapons.

1. These are three different styles of helmets in the Great North Museum.
2. You can see how the first two helmets would make it difficult to hear and how the second and third helmet would not have allowed the soldier to see to his sides, just straight in front.
3. This is a bronze breast-plate and back-plate from the Great North Museum – you can see the hinges where they would been joined together. The little holes are for fixing a lining inside.
4. This is a leg guard (greave) from the Great North Museum. It would protect the lower leg which was not covered by the shield.
5. The shield would have had a design on it – here you can see lots of different shield motifs.

Top row – scorpion, snake, Pegasus, lion.

Bottom row – eye, hand, Gorgon, griffin.

Some of these would have been intended to frighten the enemy.

1. What do you think the bowl was for?

It would be used to make an offering of wine to the gods to ask for the safe return of the hoplite.

Which do you think was the most important piece of equipment?

**These notes and PowerPoint are preparation for the activity sheets and creative activities: label the hoplite, dress the hoplite, warrior departure and make a shield**