

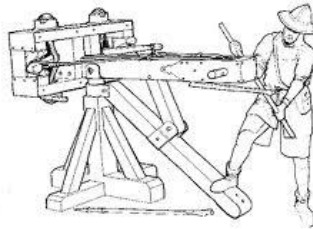
Catapults

Catapult

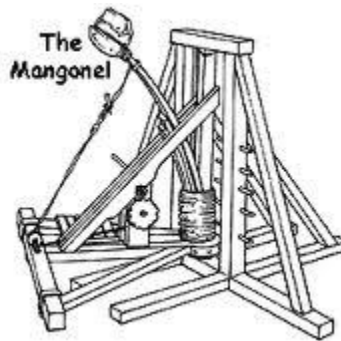
- A classic weapon appearing in many forms over the years
- Is a generic name given to a weapon of war designed to hurl objects
 - Greek Fire
 - Bee Hives
 - Biological - Dead diseased animal carcasses
 - Psychological - enemies dead bodies
- Comes from Greek word Katapultos meaning shield piercer
- Heavy duty version of a sling shot
- Used until replaced by explosive based projectile weapons (cannons)

Variations of the Catapult

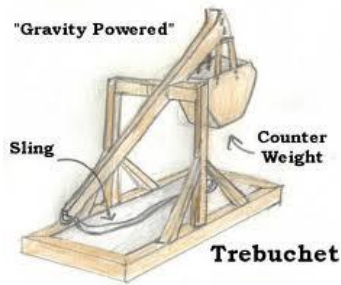
- Ballista - similar to a Giant Crossbow and worked by using tension.



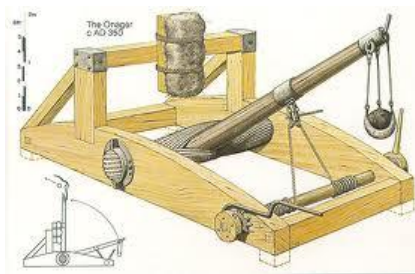
- Mangonel - similar to a catapult which worked by using torsion or counterpoise. Mangonels fired heavy projectiles from a bowl-shaped bucket at the end of its arm.



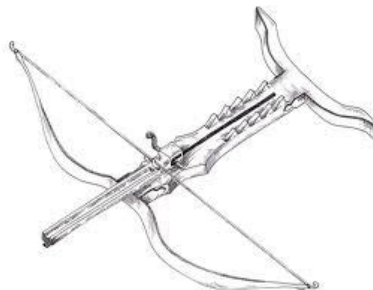
- Trebuchet- similar to a catapult, or stave sling, which was used for hurling heavy stones to smash castle or city walls.



- Onager - Onager is a type of catapult that uses torsional pressure, generally from twisted rope, to store energy for the shot



- Gastraphete - first known catapult to be deployed in combat. Similar to a crossbow



Time Line

4th Century BCE - China

6th Century AD - Arrived on European Battlefields

400 BC Syracuse (Greece)

Gastrophete

Ballista

Mangonel

6th Century AD - Traction Trebuchet (Bizzantine Armies)

1187 - Counterweight Trebuchet (Saladin)