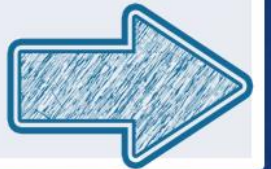


Did the events of the Trojan Horse story really happen?





The Trojan Horse: A city called Troy

The story begins in city called **Troy**. It was found a sea journey away from the famous Greek city-state of Sparta.

The city of Troy was protected by a **high wall**. Some parts were 20 feet high and it defended the city from enemies – like the Greeks. The only way in was through a special gate.

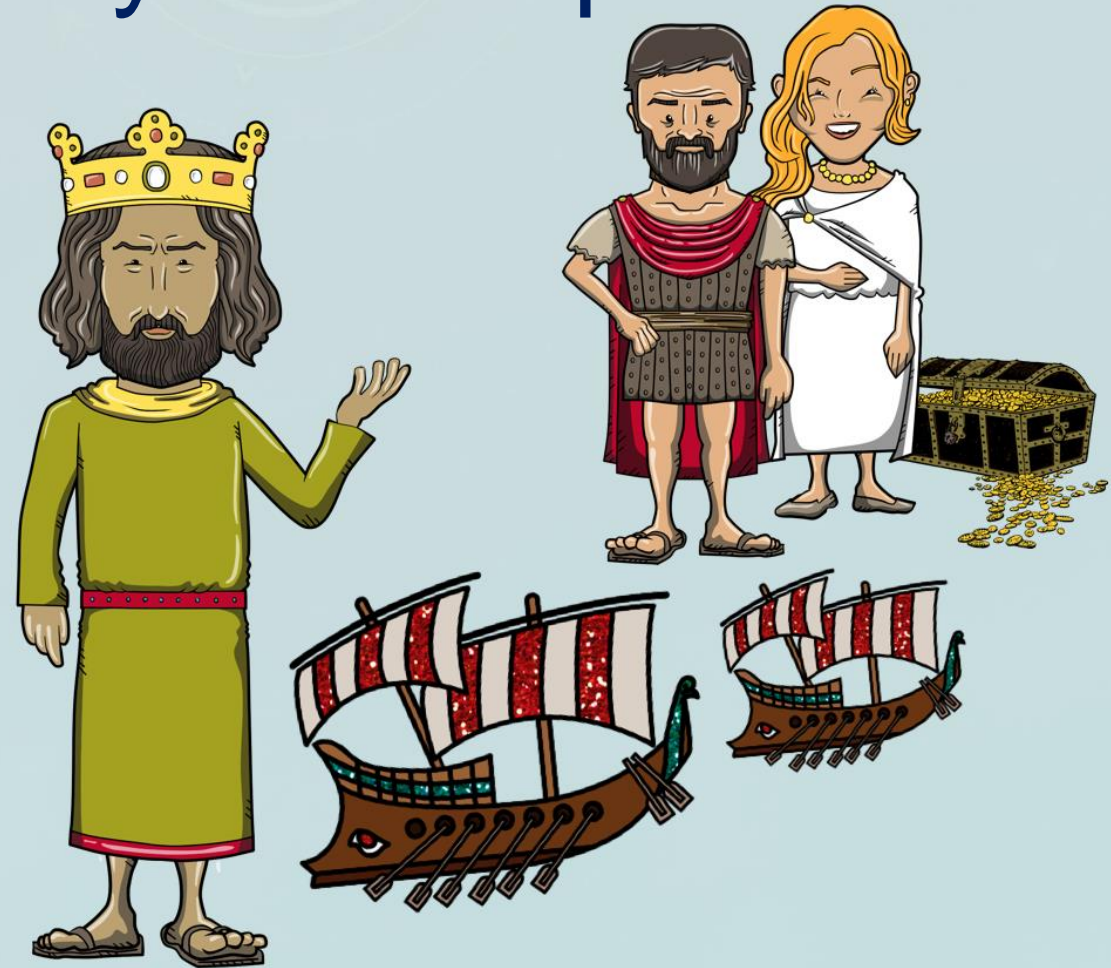




The Trojan Horse: A royal kidnapping

One day, the king of Sparta found out that a **prince from Troy had kidnapped his beautiful wife** Helen. The prince's name was Paris and he took Helen back to Troy and married her. Paris also **took some of the king's treasure.**

The king of Sparta was outraged and called on the other Greek city-states to help. An army of thousands of Greek ships set sail for Troy.

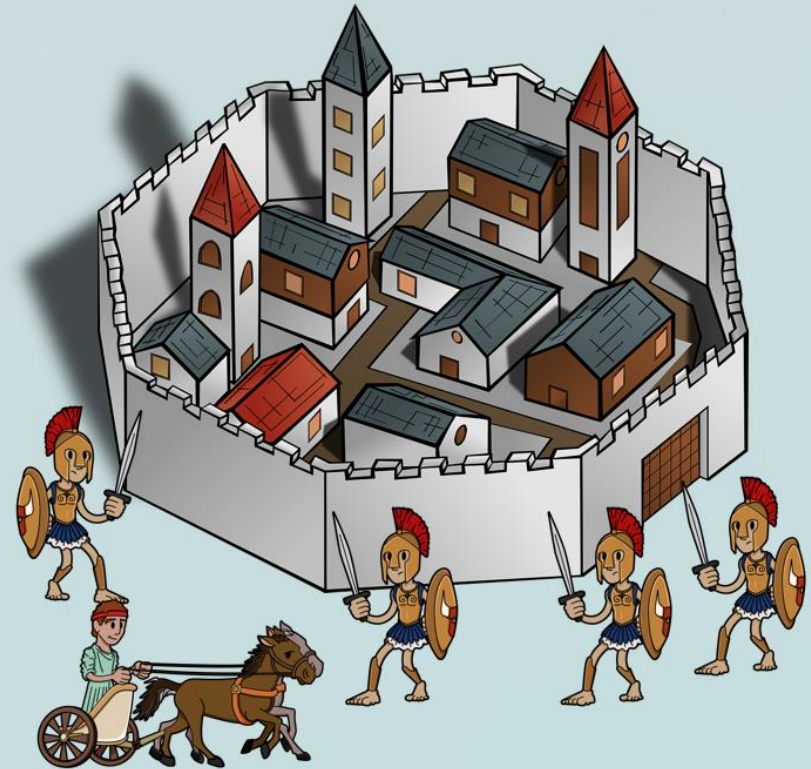




The Trojan Horse: No Way In

It was very hard for the Greek soldiers to break through the high walls of Troy.

There were many battles between the two sides and the **war went on for nearly ten years**. The Greek soldiers could not break through the Trojan walls and the Trojan soldiers could not fight the Greek soldiers away from their position outside the city.



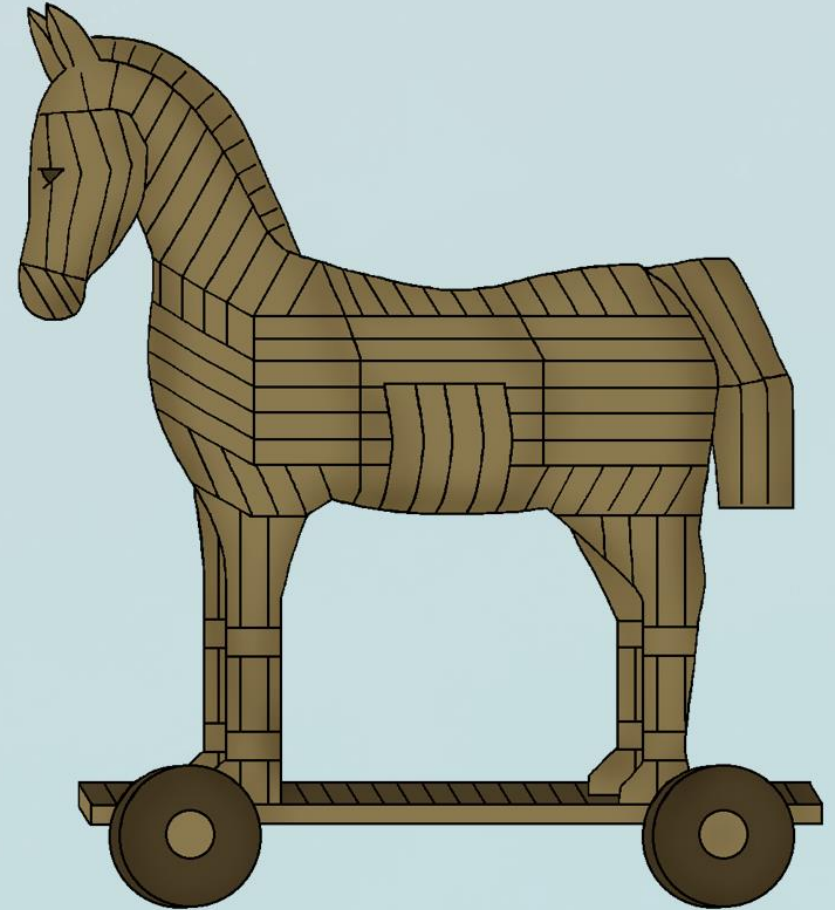


The Trojan Horse: A surprise gift

Breakthrough finally happened when a Greek general called Odysseus came up with a way of **tricking the Trojans into letting the Greek soldiers inside** the walls.

The Greeks built a large, beautifully-crafted wooden horse and left it outside the gates of the city, acting like it was a peace gift for the Trojans. The Greeks then pretended to leave, as though they had been defeated into going home.

The plan was that **the Greek men would secretly hide** inside the wooden horse.

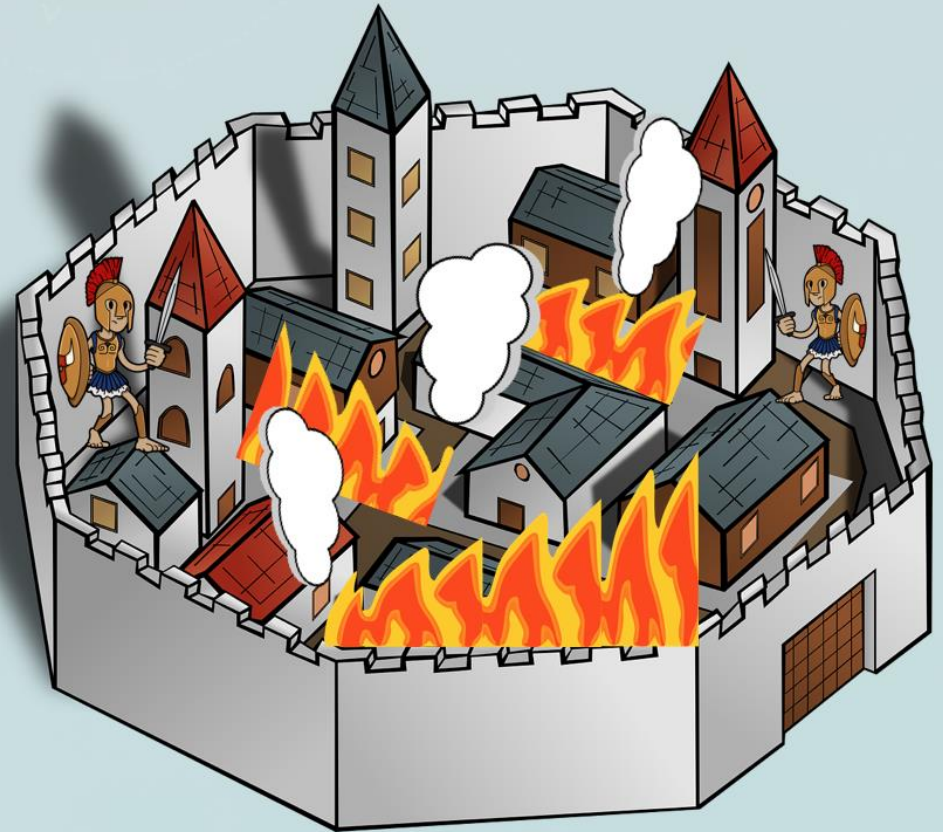




The Trojan Horse: Final victory

The Trojans rushed to celebrate their victory. They **wheeled the wooden horse inside** through the gates of the city. Once inside the city walls, the Greeks (who had been hiding inside the horse) waited until nightfall to emerge and then opened the gates to allow more of their army to enter.

A battle began and this time, the Greeks won and **set the city of Troy on fire**. Finally, the Greeks had won their victory!



Drawing a conclusion



Have a look at some of the reasons that historians have used to explain why stories like the one about the Trojan Horse might not stick to the absolute truth.

Which ones do you think are most likely to apply here? Rank them from 1-5 in order of most likely to least likely.

To make the story **more entertaining**

To make it easier for storytellers to **recite and remember**

To make the **Greeks look like war heroes**

To emphasise a **moral message** about how to behave

Because details were accidentally changed over time **by oral storytellers**

Can you think of any more?



Drawing a conclusion

Now explain your conclusion to your partner, using the prompts to help you.

Did the story of the Trojan Horse really happen?

- ✓ I have concluded that the true parts are likely to be:
- ✓ I think these parts are based on true events because:
- ✗ I have concluded that the untrue parts are likely to be:
- ✗ I think these parts might have been changed because:
- ? My conclusion is that **all/none/some** of the story was based on truth.



Something to think about....

Imagine you are part of the Greek army, camped outside the walls of Troy but unable to break through.

Can you think of **your own trick** to get inside, like Odysseus did with the wooden horse idea?

