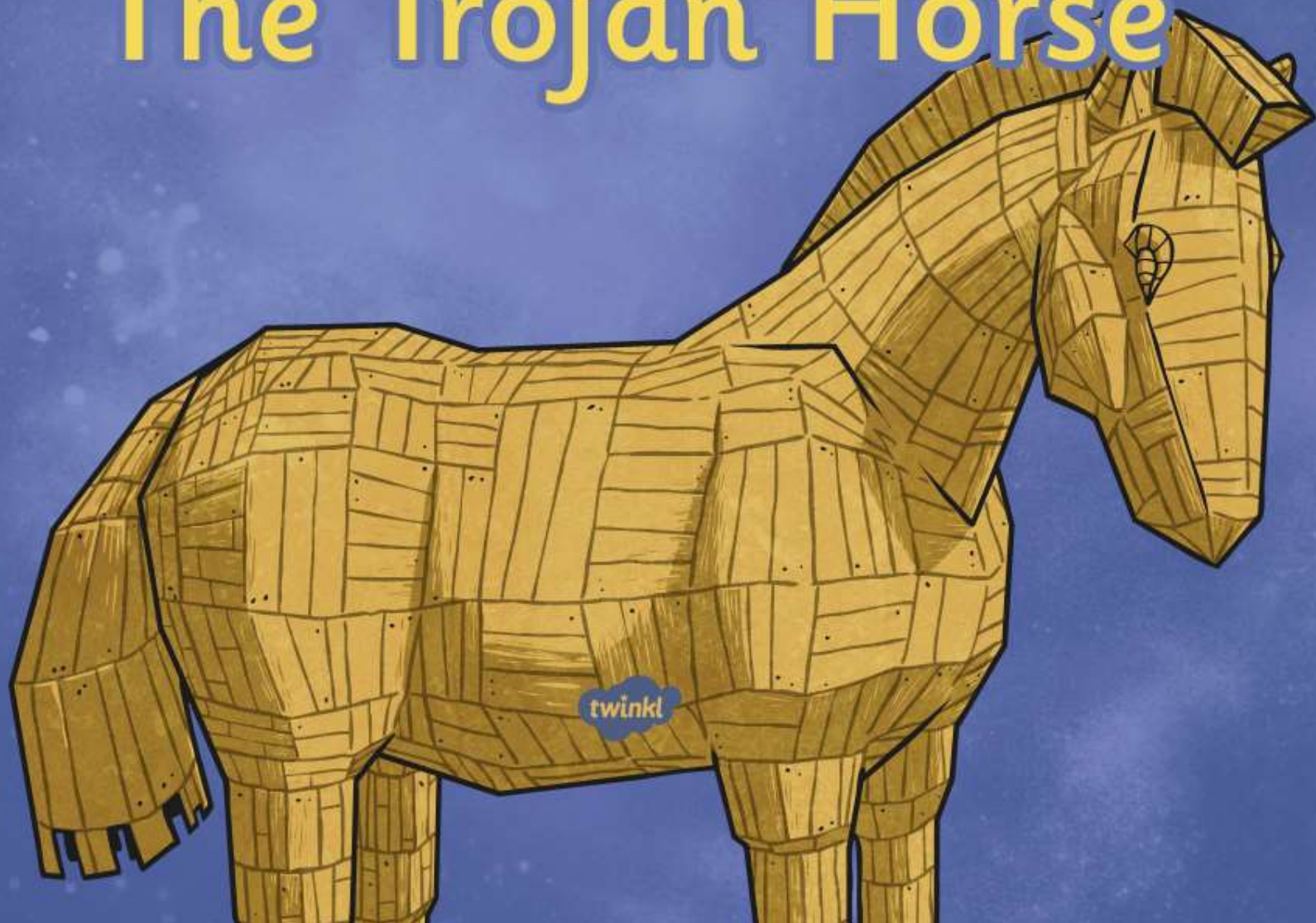


The Legend of  
**The Trojan Horse**

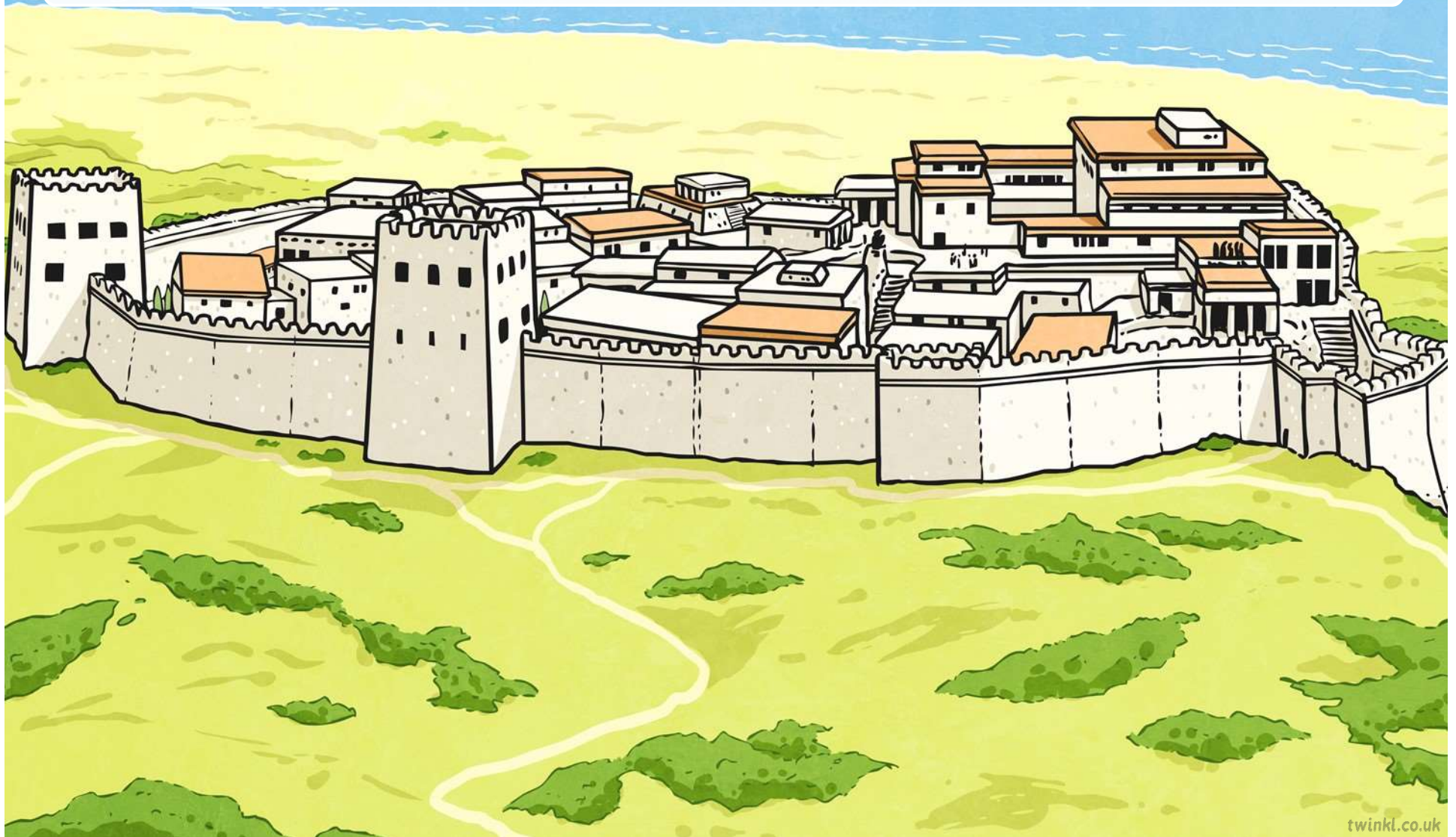


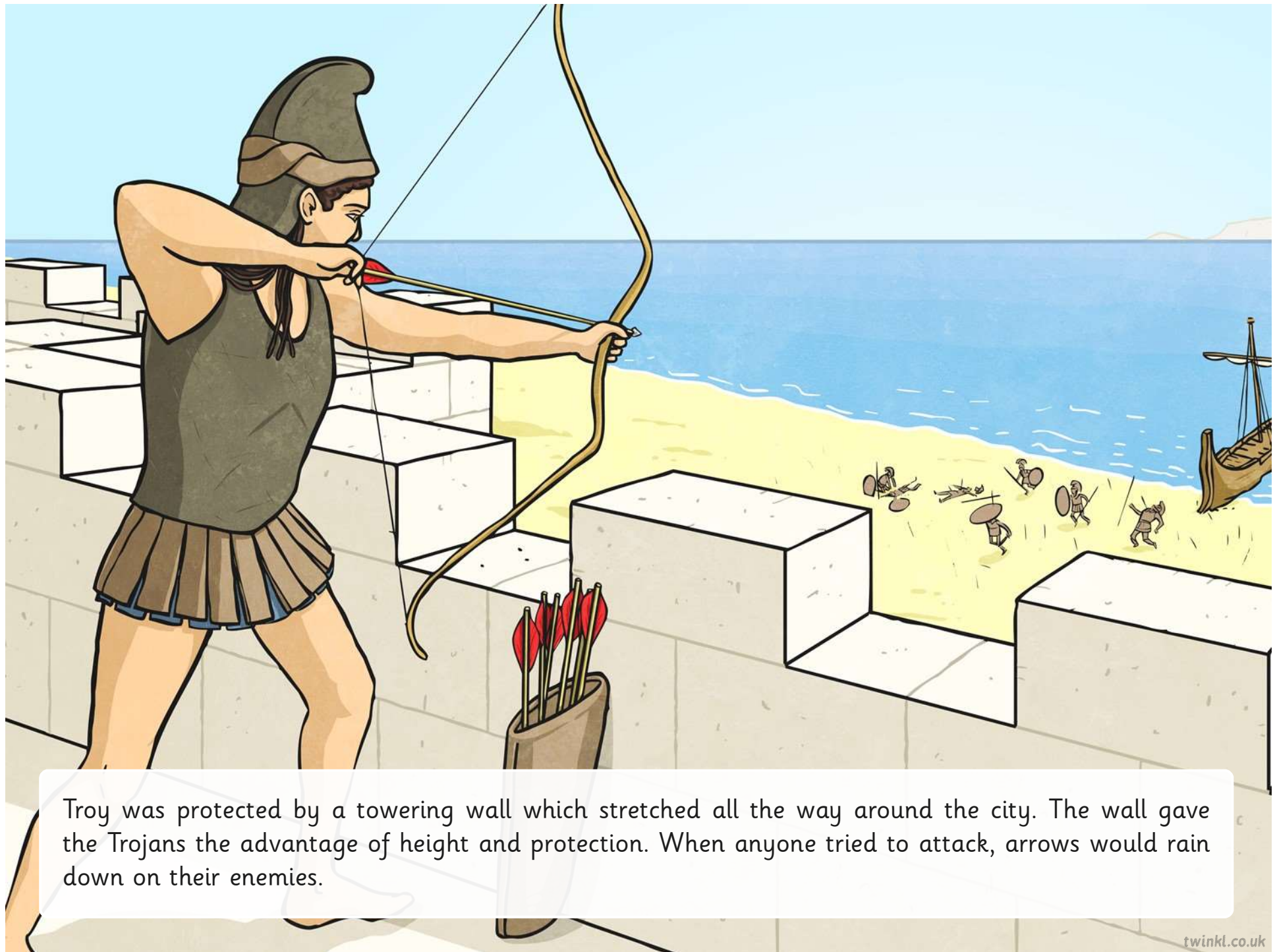




This story takes place in the ancient city of Troy, across the sea from Sparta.

At one time, Troy and other Greek city-states were friends, but during the Trojan War, the Greeks and Trojans became enemies.



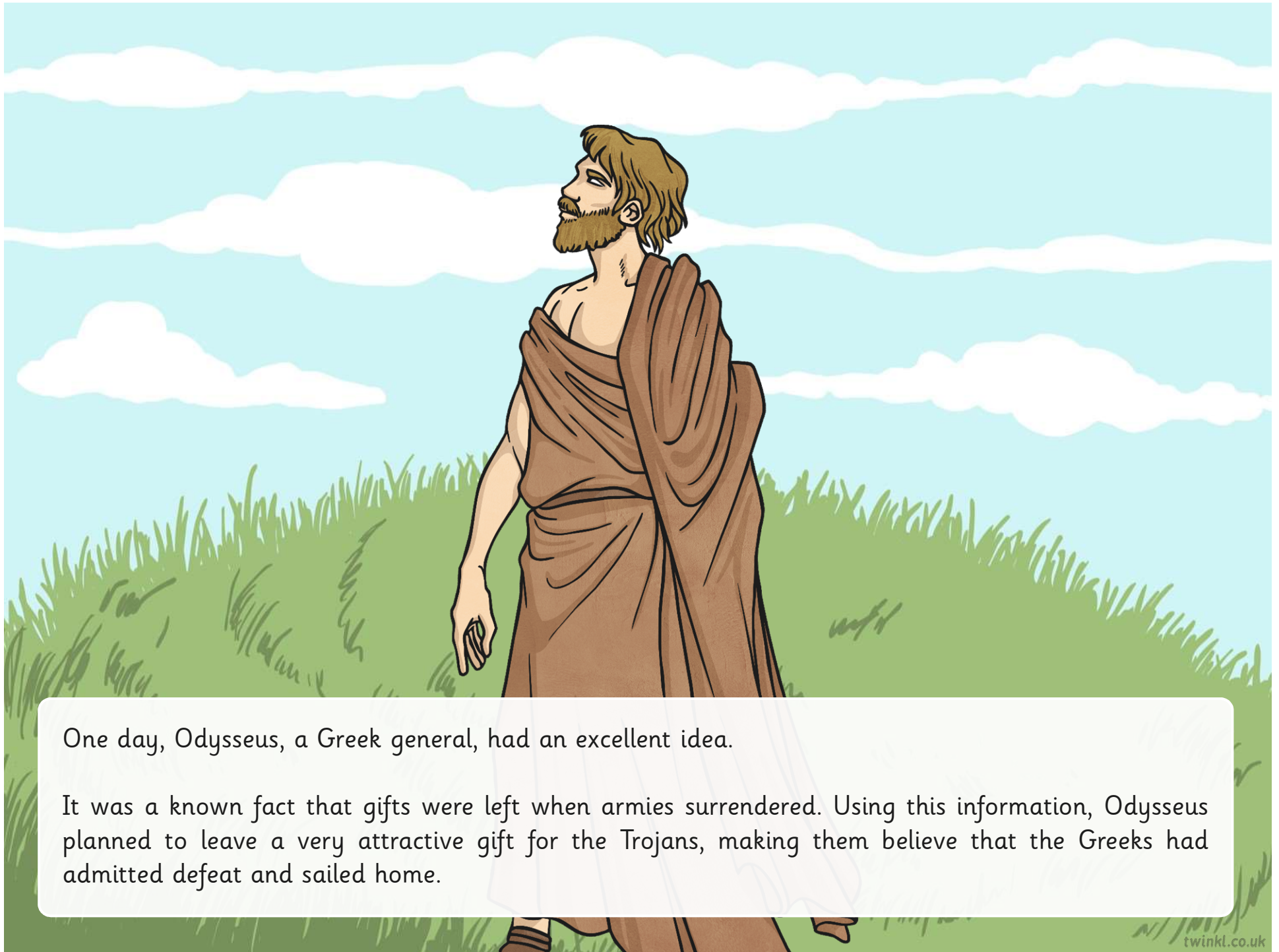


Troy was protected by a towering wall which stretched all the way around the city. The wall gave the Trojans the advantage of height and protection. When anyone tried to attack, arrows would rain down on their enemies.





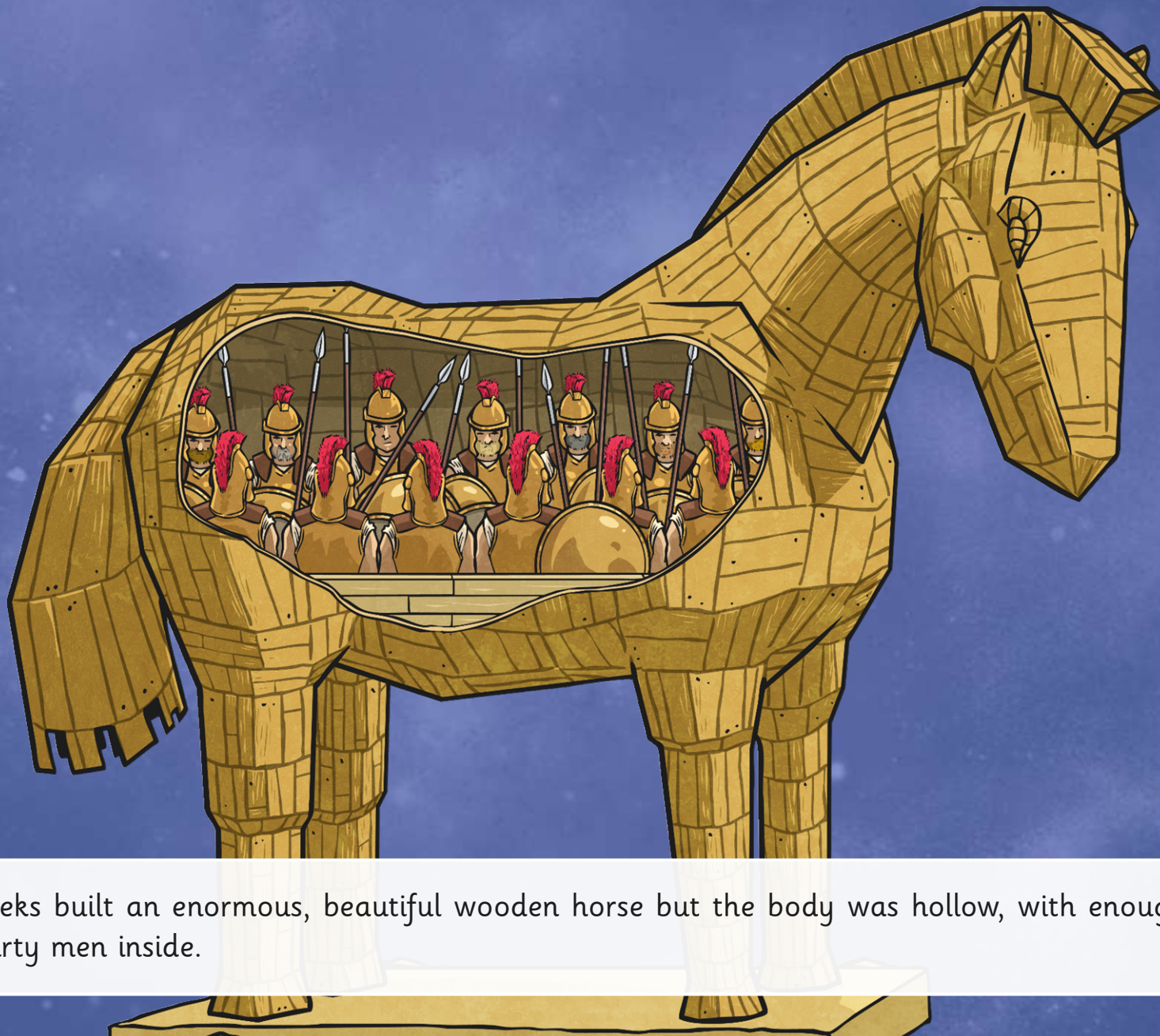
The Greeks had been trying to get over the wall for many years but every attempt was thwarted by the Trojans.



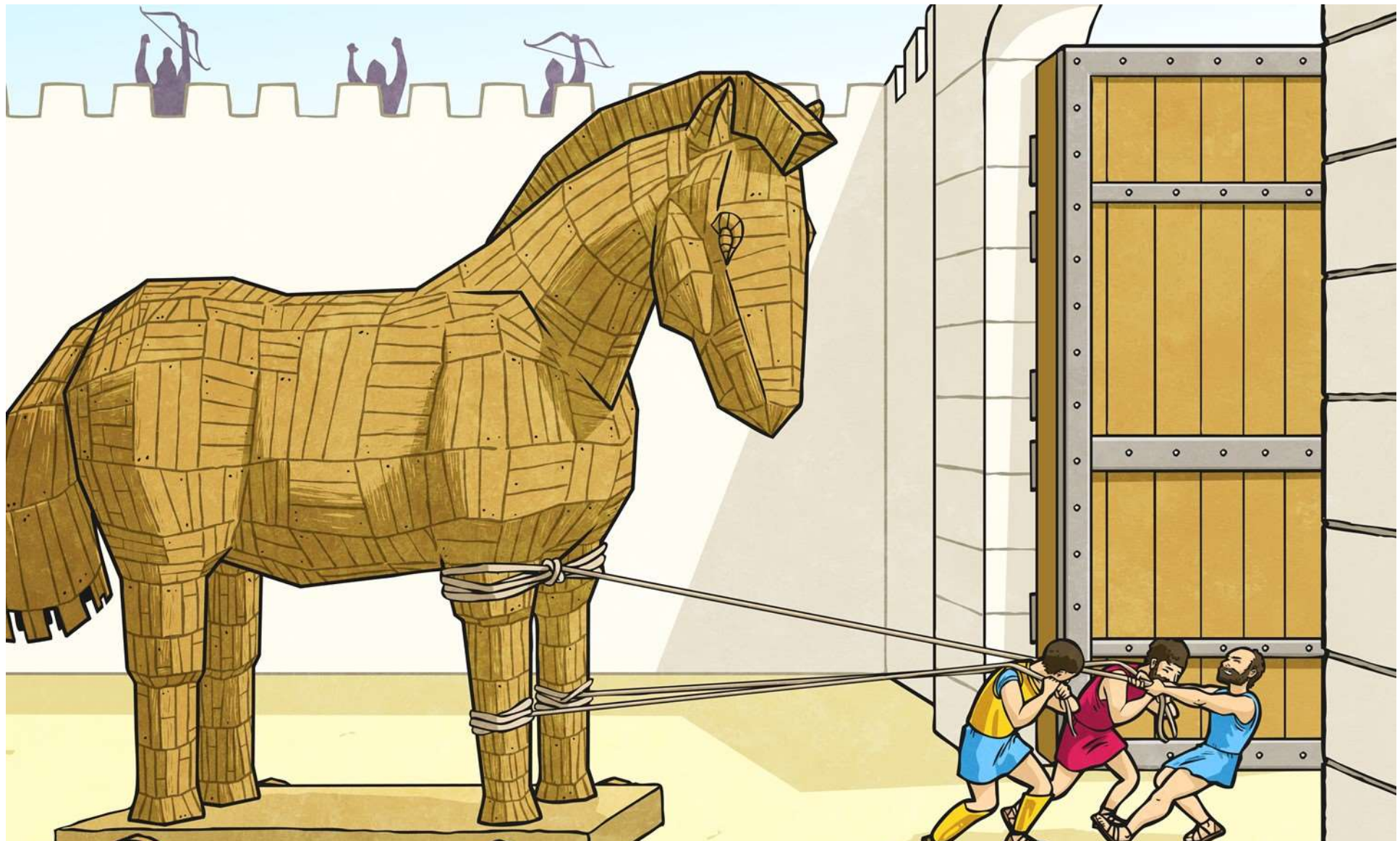
One day, Odysseus, a Greek general, had an excellent idea.

It was a known fact that gifts were left when armies surrendered. Using this information, Odysseus planned to leave a very attractive gift for the Trojans, making them believe that the Greeks had admitted defeat and sailed home.





The Greeks built an enormous, beautiful wooden horse but the body was hollow, with enough space to fit thirty men inside.



The people of Troy were fascinated by the wooden horse standing outside their city wall. As they saw the Greek army sail away, they decided to drag the gift into their city as a symbol of their victory.



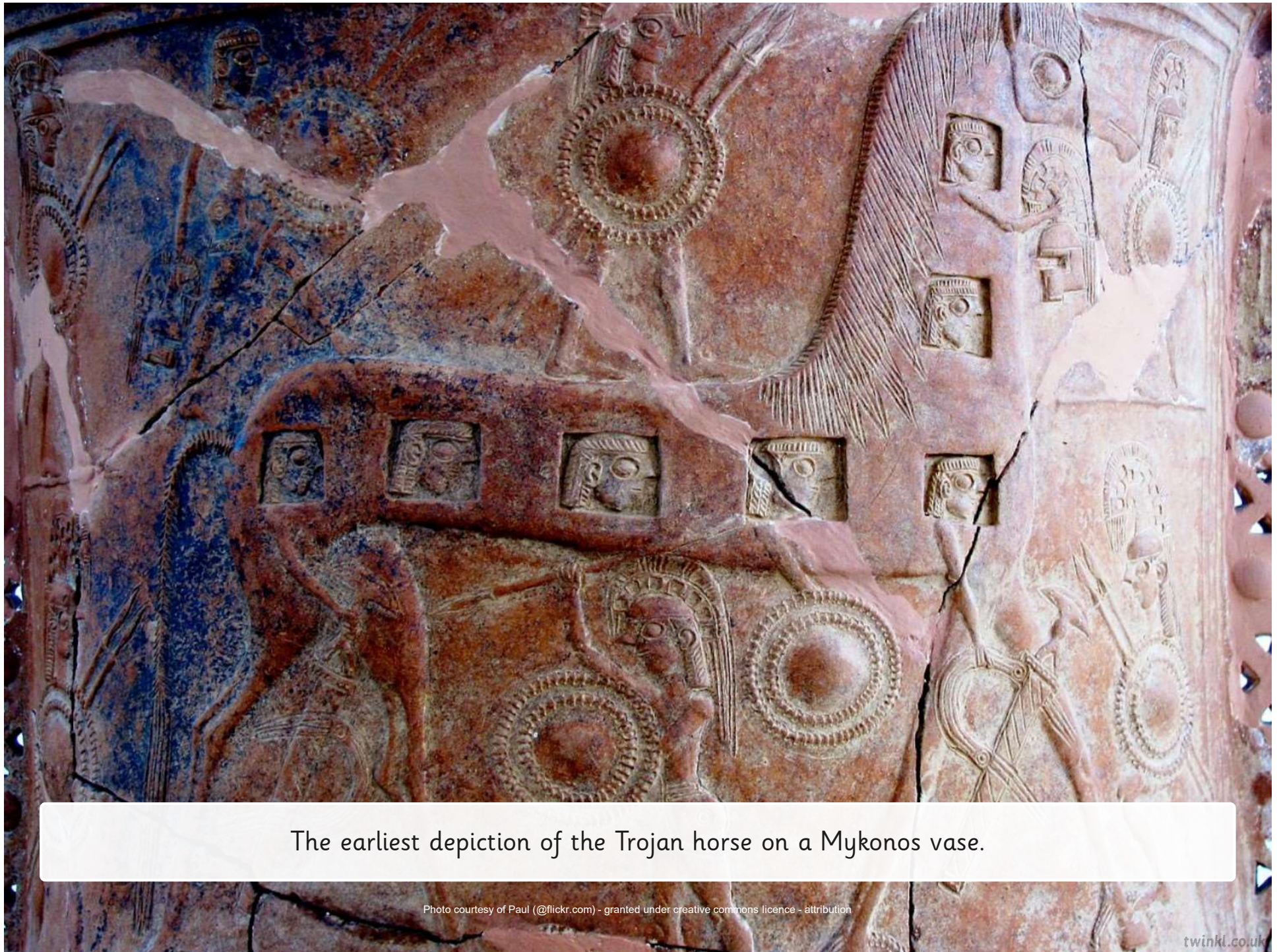
That night, the Greek ships turned around and sailed back towards Troy.

Whilst the people of Troy were asleep, the soldiers hiding inside the horse climbed out and signalled to the Greek ships that they had entered the city.



The gates were opened and the Trojans were caught off guard. Troy was destroyed and the Trojan War was over.





The earliest depiction of the Trojan horse on a Mykonos vase.

Photo courtesy of Paul (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution