

CATAPULTS

Catapults were invented in ancient Greece over 2,000 years ago. The man who invented it was named Dionysius and he made it in 350 BC. The word "catapult" comes from the Greek word "kata" which means "down" and "pultos" which means "shield". Together "kata pultos" means "piercing shield".

The ancient catapults were used in warfare. Dionysius wanted to make a weapon that would be very effective in battle. They were stronger and more powerful than fighting with swords and spears. The catapults were often loaded with wooden darts that had arrow tips. Sometimes the Greeks launched boulders, pots of fire, and even cows and horses to attack their enemies.

They were very heavy and bulky and difficult to transport, so engineers constructed them right where a battle was taking place using the wood from nearby trees.

