

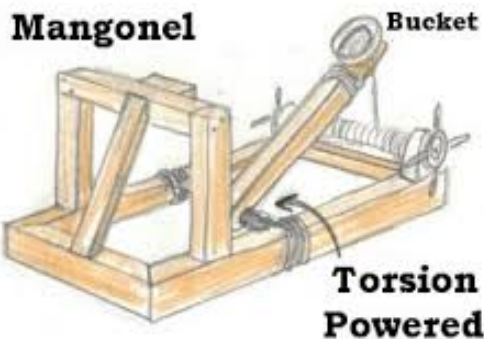
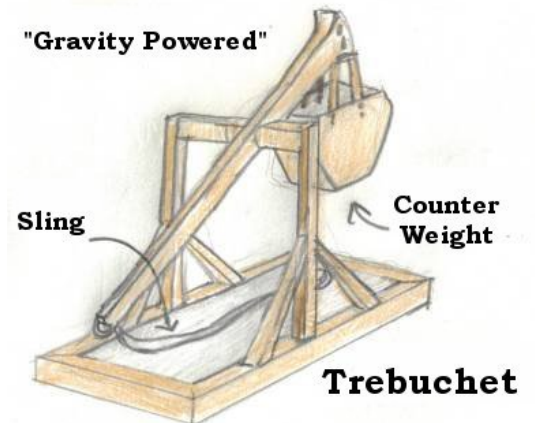
General INFO on Catapults

The most common Catapults used during the Middle Ages were the Mangonel, the ballista, Onager, and the mighty Trebuchet. During the Middle Ages, victims of the bubonic plague were used for biological attacks. They would catapult the infected bodies over castle walls infected anyone who came into contact with them! HOW DISTURBING!!!

Not only would they catapult infected bodies, they would use ANYTHING like: Stones, Sharp wooden poles and darts, Fire, Burning Tar, Burning Sand (this became trapped inside armor), Animal or human Dung, Dead animals or any rotting matter! YUCK!!

Trebuchet

- What we officially recognize as a trebuchet is powered by a counterweight, has a sling and a long pivoted throwing arm.
- Missiles thrown from the Trebuchet catapults were deadly.
- The Trebuchet is generally associated with throwing stones.
- A Trebuchet could release up to 2000 stones in one day! If they ran out of stones, sharp wooden poles and darts would be used.

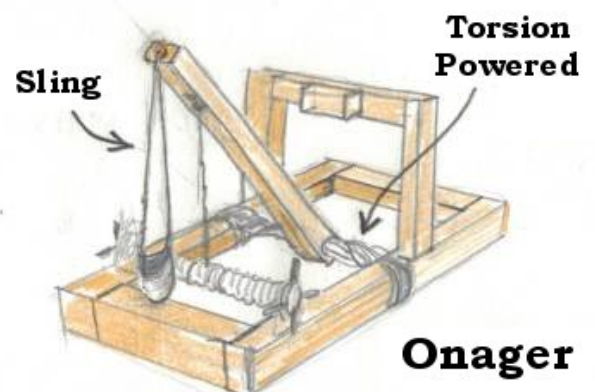


The Mangonel

- These are what many people think of when they think of a catapult. From the Latin word "manganon" meaning "engine of war". The Mangonel was invented by the Romans in 400 BC.
- The Mangonel consists of a long wood arm with a bucket on the end
- This type of catapult was easy to construct and wheels were added to the design so they could move it easier!
- The Mangonel was not as accurate as the Ballista but it was able to throw missiles further than a Trebuchet.

The Onager

- This type of catapult was actually invented in 250 B.C.
- It was a Roman siege engine that was a type of catapult that uses a torsion force, generally from twisted rope, to store energy for the shot.
- The ropes needed to be strong and elastic, so often were made from hair or strong fibers.



There are many great websites/youtube videos demonstrating how these catapults are built and how they work!