

# WAR AND WARRIORS

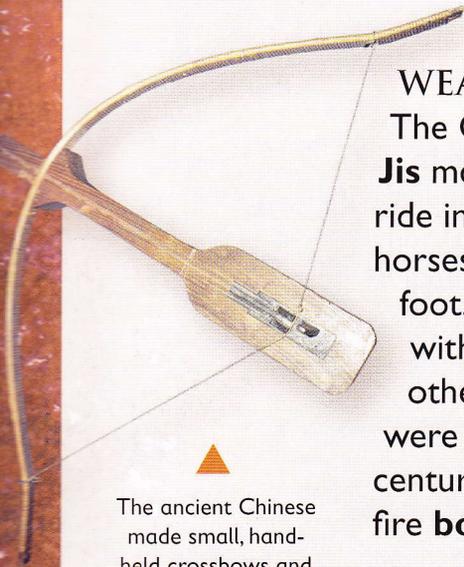
The Chinese people often went to war with each other. Before China became one country, the separate parts, or states, fought many battles. This time was known as the Warring States period. When China became one, the emperor still had to fight against enemies who tried to steal his throne. War happened so often in China that a general called Sun Tzu even wrote an entire book about fighting. It is called the *The Art of War*.

▶ This helmet and suit of armour were found buried in the tomb of an emperor from the Ming dynasty (1368–1644 BC).



## WEAPONS

The Chinese fought using axes and **Jis** made of bronze. Nobles would ride into battle on chariots pulled by horses. Ordinary soldiers fought on foot. Battles in China usually began with armies firing arrows at each other using **crossbows**. Crossbows were invented in China in the 5th century BC. These weapons could fire **bolts** very fast and far.



▶ The ancient Chinese made small, hand-held crossbows and catapults that fired large missiles.

## DID YOU KNOW?

SOME CHINESE WARRIORS WORE ARMOUR MADE OF SMALL IRON PLATES. IT WAS SO HEAVY THAT SOLDIERS WOULD SOMETIMES TAKE IT OFF SO THEY COULD SWING THEIR WEAPONS MORE EASILY.

## WAR GAMES

Some scholars believe that ancient Chinese army leaders practised their war plans by playing board games, such as Go (also known as Wéiqi). Go has been played in China for more than 3000 years.

▶ These players are playing Go on a full size board, measuring 18 squares by 18 squares.

