

# AMAZONS

**T**each your daughters well the ways of proper and dutiful Hera, wife of Zeus, lest the Amazons steal your child and teach her the wild ways of animals. Such is one of the many warnings spoken of the Amazons in the land of Hellas. Countless legends have risen about them, often wild, exaggerated tales told to terrify the men of Hellas into keeping their wives and daughters in line. Yet all of the tales agree, they are women who have forsaken their traditional role as the caretakers of home and hearth, and have taken up the sword and spear against all men.

The Amazons roam the wide steppes north of the civilized lands of Hellas and south of the barbaric lands of the Scythians. They are expert horse riders and archers, a combination that makes them a deadly force in combat. Unlike the men of Hellas, they call no citystate their home, and they recognize no man-made borders drawn upon a map; their home is the wide, open grassland, their borders are the distant horizon, and their roof is the night sky. They scorn the ways of civilized men who dwell in filthy, degenerate cities, and have nothing but contempt for the laws men have written to give the weak power over the strong. They live a life of freedom, an open rebellion that threatens the very order of Hellenic society. If they could, the Amazons would tear down every city that men have built, liberate every woman from her male oppressors, and free every horse from bit and bridle. With this outlook, warfare with the armies of men is inevitable.

The Amazons inspire both fear and fascination in their enemies. Many young and inexperienced warriors are at first hesitant when confronted by a force of Amazons on the field of battle. To their eyes the Amazons are mysterious and exotic, beautiful to behold, and the thoughts of the warriors linger on the other women they have known: nurturing mothers, tender lovers, and innocent daughters. The Amazons are none of these. They are women born to the battlefield and nurtured with a burning hatred for men and their civilization. In battle, they are often overtaken with a demonic fury that transforms their beautiful faces into terrifying masks of demonic rage. They fight without mercy and kill without hesitation... even the corpses of their enemies are not safe, for their scalps are taken as gory prizes and their blood is used as war-paint for the faces of their killers. Those who survive a battle against the Amazons are shaken, left with the fear that their beloved wives and daughters too could someday turn against them.

## HISTORY & SOCIETY

The Amazons live nomadic lives, never lingering in a single place for longer than a few seasons. Few have ever seen an Amazon camp and lived to tell the tale. Their scouts ride in long patrols around their encampments, and any interloper or invading force is spotted long before they make contact. In times past, the Amazons made an attempt at diplomacy, entertaining notable guests such as Heracles and Theseus, but these events all ended in tragedy. Boorish Heracles so offended his female hosts that a dozen of their champions were compelled to challenge him to single combat, and though mighty warriors themselves, each was in turn brutally slain by the invincible son of Zeus. Theseus likewise offended them, seducing their queen Antiope with his legendary charm and abducting her in the night, an offense that led all the tribes of Amazonia to unite in a bloody war of retribution against the city of Athens. Now, no such efforts at diplomacy are ever considered. All foreigners on their lands are considered trespassers, to be brutally slain without question.

An Amazon never marries. She must earn her right to bear children... only after she has slain three men in battle is an Amazon permitted to mate, a practice that ensures only the strong and battle-tested give birth to the next generation. Yet not any man will do... the Amazons seek to capture only the greatest champions, men strong and perfect in form to sire their daughters. They know that by mating with the greatest of their enemies, they steal their enemy's greatness and pass it on to their next generation. But to fall into the hands of the Amazons is no romantic or erotic affair; the captive is first crippled and hamstrung, then roughly used for a season to breed the next generation of women warriors. He will never see his children, for once all of the eligible warriors are with child, or if he can no longer perform his duties, he is sacrificed to the tribe's patron god. No man lives longer than a single season in the captivity of the Amazons.

In this way, each year brings a new generation of half-sisters, often all the daughters of the same captive man. The bond of their sisterhood is powerful, if any one of their siblings is slain, the others will hunt down and slay her killer. If sons are born, those children are castrated at birth. Bereft of their manhood, they are weak-willed and docile, and never fully develop physically. They are seldom seen by outsiders and are entirely dependent upon

Class	Mv	Wnd	#Att	Att	Def	Mis	Arc	Disc	Pts
Warrior	5	1	1	4	4	5	6	6	13
Champion	5	2	1	5	5	6	6	7	28
Hero	5	3	2	6	6	7	7	8	58
<b>Equipment/Notes</b>	<i>Hatred of Men: +1 to Attack Rating vs. any human male model.</i>						<b>Base Size</b>		20mm

their female counterparts for protection. These captive ‘brothers’ are the workers and craftsmen, performing all the menial tasks necessary for the tribe to exist, yet beneath the station of any Amazon warrior. While they are not technically slaves, they have few rights, traveling only in their wagons and forbidden to ever ride a horse.

### ALLIES & ADVERSARIES

Only the city-state of Troy maintains any sort of civil relations with the Amazons. Separated from their lands by the swiftflowing waters of the Hellespont, the Trojans know not to trespass on the Amazon’s sacred homeland. It is the Amazons instead who go seeking the men of Troy, for their horses are swift and strong and without equal, and greatly prized by Amazon leaders. A healthy trade has been established, with the Amazons taking the wildest animals of the Trojan herds – those animals that even the legendary horse-tamers deem untamable. These horses are exchanged for the spoils that the Amazons have taken in battle, for they have little need for gold, gemstones, and the luxuries of civilized life. All other city-states of Hellas hate and fear the Amazons, and there exists a constant state hostility between them. Though the conflict is usually confined to border skirmishes and small raids for captives, it would only take a small offense to mobilize the entire nation of the Amazons for war again.

The Amazons follow the same pantheon of gods as do the rest of the Hellenes, but for them, the order is inverted – the female gods are supreme, existing in constant conflict against their male oppressors. The goddess Hera is the most scorned, for she has shamefully surrendered her freedom to Zeus without complaint... the Amazons despise her even more than Zeus himself. Virginal Artemis is greatly revered by the Amazon youth, for she symbolizes the freedom and harmony with the wild that all Amazons desire. Dark Hecate is worshipped by the eldest matrons of the tribe, initiated into her mysteries when they can no longer ride a horse, or equal a man in battle due to advancing age and injury. These women wage war in more sinister ways, using the dark arts of sorcery to wither the spirit of men and cripple their health. Of all the male gods of Olympus, only warlike Ares is universally honored by the Amazons. As a people they claim direct descent from the god of war, a claim that is likely true, for if ever there was a race born of war for the sake of the battle itself, it is the Amazons. Ares looks fondly upon his many ‘daughters’, and often goes amongst them, sowing the seeds of the next bloody battle that will scar the face of Hellas.

### WAY OF WAR

Amazons learn to ride horses at an early age. While other cultures seek to break the spirit of their horses to easily harness them to their to carts and chariots, the Amazons have a different relationship with their animals altogether... it is said that an Amazon does not choose her horse, rather it is the horse that chooses the rider. The horse seems to sense the wild nature of the warrior women, and even an untamed animal becomes calm when approached by an Amazon. They become bound together, like a mother and child, and this bond grows ever stronger over the lifetime of the animal. Such a bound horse will allow no other to ride it, but with the Amazon they act in near-perfect harmony. The Amazon rides without bit or bridle, and the animal is directed by whispered words, the hand that holds its mane, and pressure from her knees and heels, and through these subtle directions the horse responds without hesitation. It recognizes in the Amazon a kindred spirit,

not a master that would crush its wild nature but a companion to run with, free and unrestrained. Together, they have perfected the art of horseback combat. In battle, the cavalry of the Amazons is swift and versatile. They taunt their foes, harassing their infantry with withering rain of javelins and spears. When their opponents have weakened, or when the Amazons can contain their bloodlust no further, they charge into the midst of their enemies sowing confusion and destruction within their ranks.

Those Amazons who have not yet found their steed, or whose steed has been lost in battle form a body of infantry and go to war on foot. These units are typically comprised of the youngest of their warriors, yet they are often the most ferocious, for they are eager to prove themselves worthy in the eyes of their elder sisters. They fight relentlessly in the center of the Amazon line, for while the warrior women are traditionally known for their cavalry, it is this stable body of fierce footsoldiers that form the anvil of their army, allowing their horse-riders to act as the hammer and crush their opponents upon them.

