



# Minoan and Mycenaean

Two Worlds



Today



# Geographical Features

Sea: heavy influence on physical environment of Greece (Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea)

Mountains (with narrow valleys): cover more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Greece's surface area and islands: more than 2000 islands (Crete being the largest)

No major rivers on Greek mainland but fertile soil

Climate: winter= mild climate; summer= hot climate with rainfall from October to March = long growing season

# What they became because of where they live?

Seafaring tradition: reliance on navy and fleets for power and protection

sea provided link to trade and cultural exchange with Mediterranean communities

Isolationism: protection but lack of effective communication

Greece was organized into polis (independent city states) separated by seas and rugged mountains

Emergence of dominant city states (Athens, Sparta)

# Minoa - An A"maze"ing story

The Minoans c. 3200 -1100 BCE - in 1900, Arthur Evans, a British archaeologist started to excavate Crete, at Knossos, he made many great discoveries

Play it again history teachers on youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jz3d5x-MUT4&feature=related>

- By all indications the Greeks feared the Minoans but they did not seem warlike people.
- Power came from trade not war
- Advancements in bronze
- Built sanctuaries and palaces but not a lot is known of their religion
- Amazing mozaics were discovered
- Famous Myth – the Legend of the Minotaur

# Knossos and the Labyrinth and the Minotaur

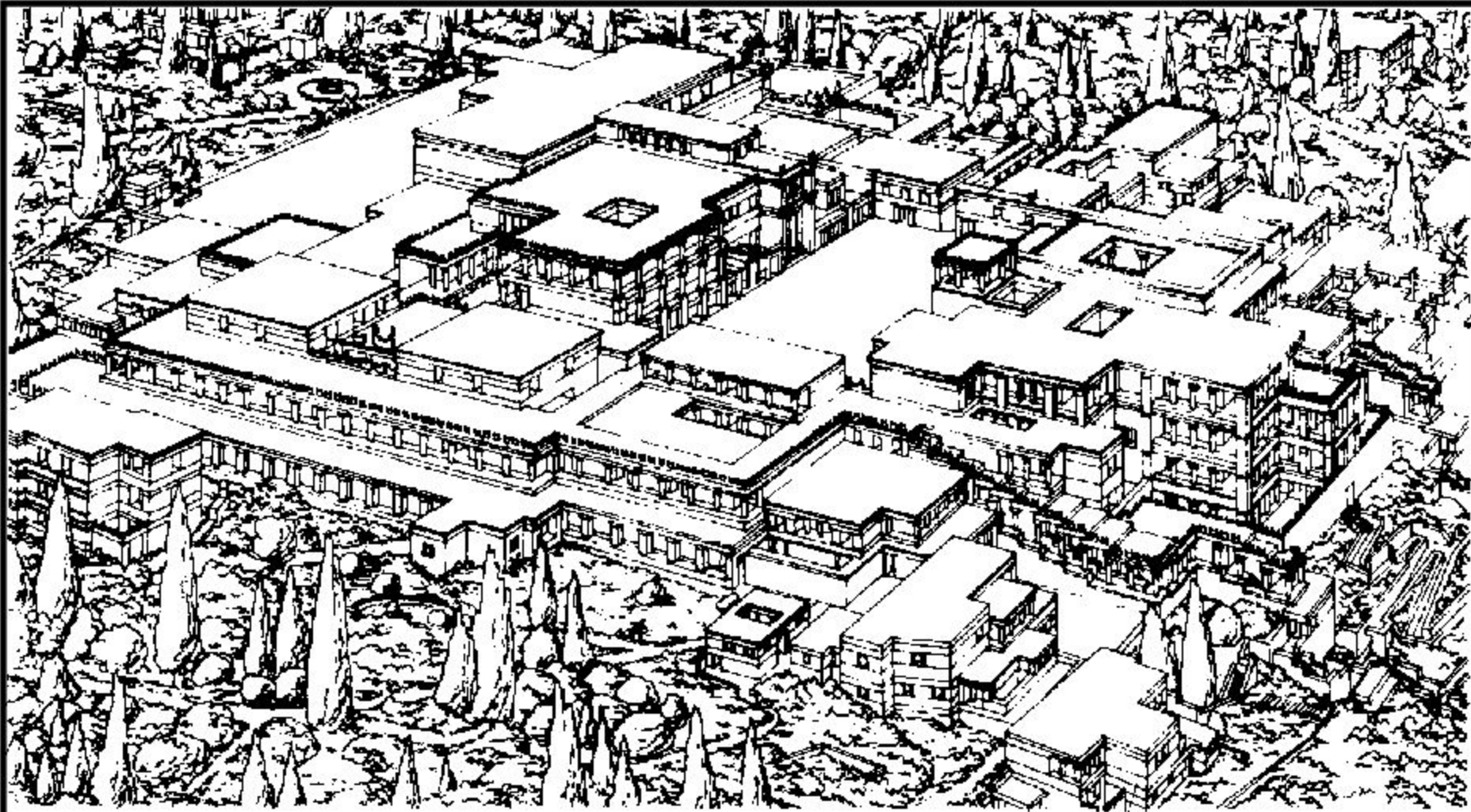
Legend of the Minotaur - Read the Legend on Page 110

Watch <http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/greek-mythology/videos/origins-of-the-minotaur>

What is this myth about? What can you learn from it?

Why the Bull? -

- Minoans had a fascination for bulls (artwork)
- Prone to earthquakes (maybe the movements of a bull)
- Crete is subject to earthquakes. Perhaps the violent and unpredictable movements of the earth seemed to them like the temperamental acts of a creature such as a bull. The Greek god Poseidon was known as the 'earth-shaker' and was connected to bull





# Knossos

Palace of Minos at Knossos (K-NOSS-oss)

Knossos-most powerful monarch for Minoans

Palaces controlled all agricultural goods and products by storing in large storerooms

Palaces became the centres of exchange for Minoan economy

Palaces had dozens of interconnecting rectangular rooms on two or more storeys which were grouped around a large open courtyard (administrative and religious)

What does their art tell us?



# Fall of Minoa

1750 BCE- earthquake destroys Minoan palaces

1628 BCE- volcano erupts at Thera

1400 BCE- War between Minoans and Mycenaean led to decline of power

# The Mycenaeans 1600 - 1100 BCE

Early invaders set up a thriving civilization in the Peloponnesian area soon to be called Mycenaean.

Mycenaean Civilization had strong fortifications

Created the Linear B from Minoan Linear A

City States were ruled by Kings

Homer's Iliad (myth) suggests that the Greeks invaded Troy and won



THRACE

BLACK SEA

ASIA MINOR

AEGEAN SEA

THESSALY

Mt. Olympus

Iolcus

Lamiae

Troy

Leabos

Scyros

Delphi

Chios

Thebes

Athens

AECHAEA

Corinth

ATTICA

Ithaca

Olympia

Mycenae

Argos

Piryn

Troizen

PELOPONNES

ARCADIA

Delos

Pylos

Sparta

Naxos

Cythera

Rhodes

Cyprus

Knossos

Crete

# Prepare to Fight! - The Trojan War

Which one should have won? In history we often ask ourselves, what if? I want you to start looking at what qualities help a country or civilization to be better?

a) Read the Legend/Story of the Trojan War (page 111)

a) Independently pick a side - Troy (Trojan's) or Greece (Mycenaeans)

b) Research both sides and pick one you think is better.

c) Present your opinion including why you picked that side.

d) Tell someone why they are wrong!

# The fall

Around 1100 BCE, the excavated graves showed a loss in armor, weapons, pottery and gold

The fortifications fell and the population severely decreased.

Loss of their language - Linear B

Possible reasons? - War, Famine, Disease?

The surviving Greeks now entered the Dark Ages

# Greek Myths Assignment