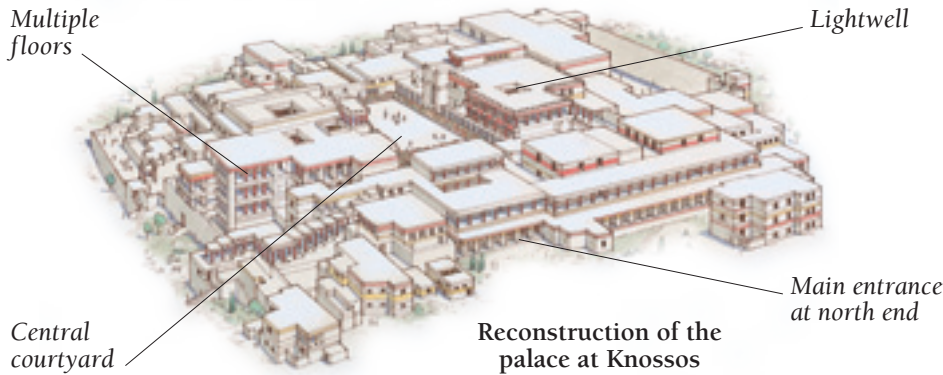


Knossos

When Sir Arthur Evans started to work on the site of Knossos, he quickly realized that it was one of the most important ceremonial and political centers of the Bronze Age. The great palace at Knossos was built between 1700 and 1400 BCE and is thought to be the inspiration behind the legend of Theseus and the Minotaur.



Theseus and the Minotaur

King Minos had beaten the Athenians in battle and demanded that every nine years, seven Athenian boys and seven Athenian girls be sent to him to be fed to the minotaur—a hideous creature, half-man and half-bull, kept in the depths of a labyrinth (maze).



Coin from Knossos with a labyrinth design

On the third occasion, the king's son Theseus went with the group to kill the Minotaur and save his people. He tricked Ariadne, Minos's daughter, into falling in love with him. She gave him a sword and ball of wool so that he could find his way out of the maze. Theseus killed the Minotaur, rescued his people, and escaped with Ariadne. On his return home, he abandoned Ariadne on the island of Naxos.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. On which island was Knossos?
..... | 4. Who was the king's daughter?
..... |
| 2. How many Athenians in total were sent to their deaths on Crete?
..... | 5. What did she give Theseus to help him?
..... |
| 3. What was the minotaur?
..... | 6. Where was she abandoned?
..... |

Make a maze

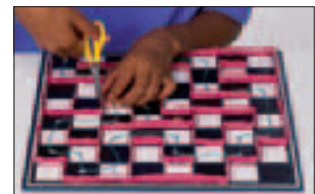
Using a checkered board, some string, and putty, try making your own maze.



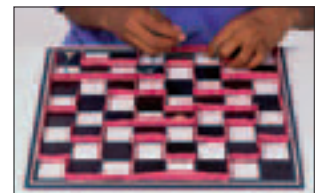
1 Use string to create a route over the checker board. Try to cover as much of the board as possible. Make a clear entrance and exit.



2 Build walls along your route with putty.



3 Create false walls and trick routes to make your route hard to find.



4 Take away the string that highlights your route.



5 Use a ball to see if a friend can work his or her way around your maze.

Activity Answers

Knossos

Theseus and the Minotaur

