

## Bronze Age Crete 3000 BCE – 1150 BCE

KIN 375 –Dr. D. Frankl

## Greece & Crete



## Bronze Age Crete



## Minoan Crete

- Crete was home to the first large-scale civilization of the Aegean Bronze Age. The island's palaces provide evidence of a thriving, relatively peaceful culture, based on control of the sea.



## Minoan Crete

- Knossos, site of the palace of legendary King Minos, brings to mind aspects of Greek myth. The maze of rooms and passages justifies its description as a labyrinth. Yet the name itself, labyrinthos, also means place of the double axes and thus evokes the image of those common cult objects that seem to have had special meaning for Minoans ('-os' endings indicate a place.)

## Palace of Knossos -- Crete



[http://www.dilos.com/region/crete/kn\\_01.html](http://www.dilos.com/region/crete/kn_01.html)



### Palace of Knossos

- *Cretan frescos and pottery, as well as the architecture, indicate "an intensely dynamic and original culture." (Castledon, p. 167.)*



<http://www.lfc.edu/academics/greece/KnosTour.html>

### Palace of Knossos Period and Greek Mythology 1700 B.C.E.

- King Minos was the son of Zeus, born of Europa
- Poseidon sent King Minos a great white bull to be sacrificed
- Poseidon gave Queen Pasiphae an unnatural passion for the bull
- The offspring was the minotaur, half bull and half human



Image by Ken Romanoff

### Greek Mythology (continued)

- Minos's son sailed to Athens to participate in athletic competitions
- tribute of seven boys and seven girls to be sent to Crete every eight years
- Theseus, the son of Athenian King Aegeus
- Ariadne, Minos's daughter, fell in love with Theseus and gave him a ball of string
- Aegeus thought Theseus had died and threw himself into the sea

### The Decline of Minoan Crete

- The Minoan civilization lasted over 1500 years, from 2600-1100 BC, and reached the height of its prosperity in the 18th - 16th centuries.
- All the centers of the second palace period were destroyed by the terrible volcanic eruption of Santorini, about 1450.
- After the final destruction of about 1380, none of the Minoan palaces was re-inhabited.

Source: <http://www.dilos.com/location/13406>

### Minoan Architecture and Art



Crete: Knossos



The Queen's Megaron with fresco

Source: <http://www.ou.edu/finearts/art/ahi4913/aegeanhtml/minoanarchitecture.html>

### Minoan Crete

- What have we learned from the Minoan civilization?
- What impact did the Minoan civilization have on the Mycenaean, the Dorian, and the Hellenic cultures?
- What sport activities originated in the Minoan culture?

For additional information on Minoan Crete please visit: [http://www.dilos.com/region/crete/min\\_cul.html](http://www.dilos.com/region/crete/min_cul.html)