



HISTORY BITES

LITTLE NIBBLES OF HISTORY

How do you escape the labyrinth?

Greek mythology tells the story of the Monster in the Maze. It tells of a frightening creature, with the head of a bull and the body of a man, yes, half man and half animal. Now this frightening creature lived in the centre of a Labyrinth, an elaborate maze, under the palace of King Minos of Crete.

The back story is that some years before, while participating in the Panathenaic Games in Athens, the son of King Minos of Greece was killed.

Mythology tells us this was because he was too good, and the other athletes were jealous.

Naturally, his father was not happy, and vowed to get revenge, and sent his army to Athens.

They were successful and, as a result, in the peace negotiations came up with a weird settlement. Every year seven boys and seven girls were to be sent to Crete to be put into the maze underneath King Minos' palace to feed his Minotaur.



The Minotaur and The Labyrinth of Crete

This is where it gets even weirder, you see the Minotaur was the son of Pasiphae, wife of King Minos of Crete. The story tells us that his wife, Queen Pasiphae, slept with a bull sent by Zeus, who in ancient Greek mythology was the god of the sky. The result of this event was that she gave birth to the Minotaur, a creature that was half man and half bull.



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King Minos was embarrassed, but did not want to kill the Minotaur, as he didn't want to offend the god, Zeus. So, he had a Labyrinth constructed by Daedalus under his Palace and there he hid the monster. Then, according to the myth, Minos imprisoned his enemies in the Labyrinth so that the Minotaur could eat them. It was claimed that the labyrinth was such a complicated construction that no one could ever find the way out alive.

Theseus's journey

Theseus, the King of Athens' son, decided to stop this and resolved that next time the children were sent, he was going as well.

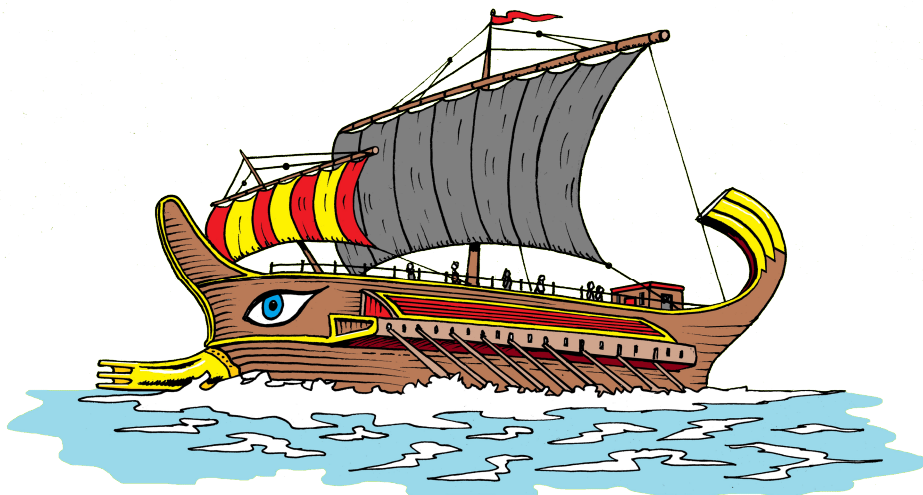
His plan was simple, he intended to go into the maze and kill the Minotaur.

Princess Ariadne

When he arrived at Crete the first person he saw on landing was the King's daughter, Ariadne. It was a case of love at first sight, yes, it does happen! Once he told her what he was going to do she insisted that he took into the maze a ball of string. If he laid it down as he went in, it would allow him to find his way out after he had killed the Minotaur.

Well, he made it, found the Minotaur, after a nasty fight, killed the monster, then following the string he found his way out of the maze.

Then, taking the Princess with him, he left, to sail happily back to Athens.





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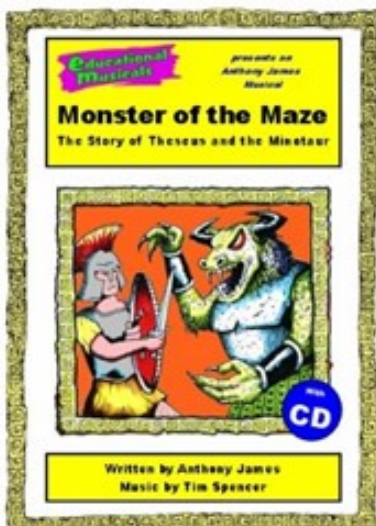
How do you escape the labyrinth?

What Happened next?

This bit becomes bizarre, you see on the way back, Theseus stopped at Naxos where they had a great celebration dedicated to Theseus and Ariadne. Now there are different variations of the next bit. Some say Ariadne fell asleep on the shore and missed the boat and others say she decided to stay.

Anyway, they drank a lot, once Theseus cleared his head, he realized that Ariadne wasn't with them, and it was too late to go back. He was so upset that he forgot the promise made to his father. It was that if he was successful, he would change his sails so his father knew he had succeeded. He forgot to change the sails!

King Aegeus was waiting at Cape Sounion, looking for the sails as it came into view. He saw the black sails from afar and was convinced his son had failed. Immediately, he jumped into the waters, yes, he committed suicide. The Greeks will tell you that is why it is called the Aegean Sea.



Using this story, Educational Musicals have created a unique musical

Monster Of The Maze

The Story of Theseus and the Minotaur.

A fun and exciting musical with 12 catchy songs that are impossible to forget.

You can download it today simply go to if you go to <https://www.educationalmusicals.co.uk/product/monster-of-the-maze/> where you will hear two of the songs and read two pages of script. Then download it and you can start rehearsing it today.

Enjoy our shows, as history matters!

WWW.EDUCATIONALMUSICALS.CO.UK

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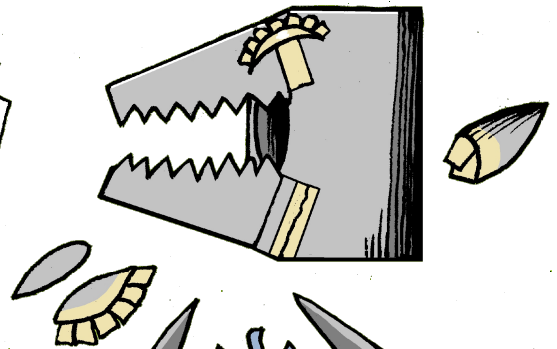
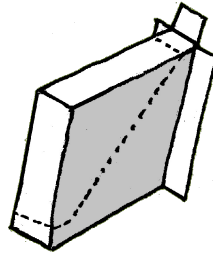
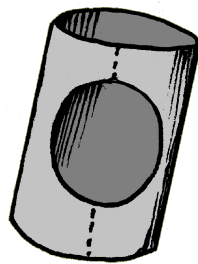
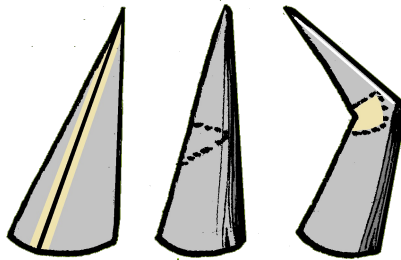
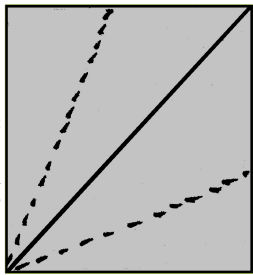
2 lesson (1 to make and another to paint)

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

MINOTAUR MASK

1. Roll up some cardboard into a cylinder, then cut a large hole for the face.
2. Cut a cereal box diagonally, leaving about 2 cm of corner left on each corner. Then reverse to get blank card. Cut out triangles to create teeth.
3. Attach the two pieces of cereal box as in the illustration, around the hole. Try not to let the mouth meet as this inhibits vision.
4. Cut out 4 leaf shapes to create ears and eyebrows. For ears cut 2 cm up the centre then fold at 90 degrees.

5. The other two are bent and attached either side of the head to create eyebrows.



6. For the horns take another piece of thin card and cut into a rough square, then cut diagonally from one corner to another. The two remaining triangles should then be folded along their lengths and the two edges joined to create a flat cone. Push the sides until you have a 3D cone. This can then have a small but long triangle cut out of its centre to create a crooked look.

7. Finish the mask by adding strips of black sugar paper to its neck, rear and top. Two holes can be cut out of the top snout for nostrils, creating extra vision holes.

