



HISTORY BIOGS

FIGURES FROM HISTORY

THESEUS

Theseus was the hero of many Greek legends, most notably 'Theseus and the Minotaur' but was he a real person?



Theseus was a mythological king and founder hero of Athens, sometimes described as the son of king Aegeus and sometimes the son of the god Poseidon. He was everything a Greek hero should be handsome, athletic and strong.

He was raised by his mother Aethra and on learning the identity of his father (Aegeus in this particular legend) he travels overland to Athens having many adventures along the way.

His most famous adventure concerns the monstrous bull headed creature, the Minotaur, living in a maze under the palace of King Minos on the island of Crete.

He is helped in his quest to slay the monster by the king's daughter Ariadne. After the conclusion of this adventure he travels to unite Attica under Athenian rule.

He becomes the King of a unified Attica and builds a palace on the fortress of the Acropolis.

His ship, used to transport him from Crete to Athens after his defeat of the Minotaur was kept as a tribute to him for centuries in the Athenian Harbour. As timbers rotted, they were replaced and the ship was used annually to pay tribute to the god Apollo by sailing it to the island of Delos each year for hundreds of years.

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Unfortunately, as in many Greek legends, the life of Theseus didn't end well.

Abdicating his throne, he traveled to the island of Syros. The king, Lycomedes welcomed him with open arms, but was secretly afraid that Theseus had come to steal his throne.

He took Theseus on a stroll to show him the beautiful island, while standing on some high cliffs to enjoy the view, and while his back has turned Lycomedes lunged forward and pushed Theseus to his death.

Theseus in some stories was also a god, the god of horses (again reflecting his possible connections to Poseidon).

But was Theseus a real man? well in recent years scholars have begun to think that he may well have been.

Whether he battled monsters or not is debatable, but there certainly could have been a Bronze age Greek King called Theseus, who unified warring Greek states to create Athens!

Archeologists are still scouring the Greek world to answer this question!

We at **HISTORY.PORTAL** love the story of the Theseus and the Minotaur, and we have a great musical all about it!

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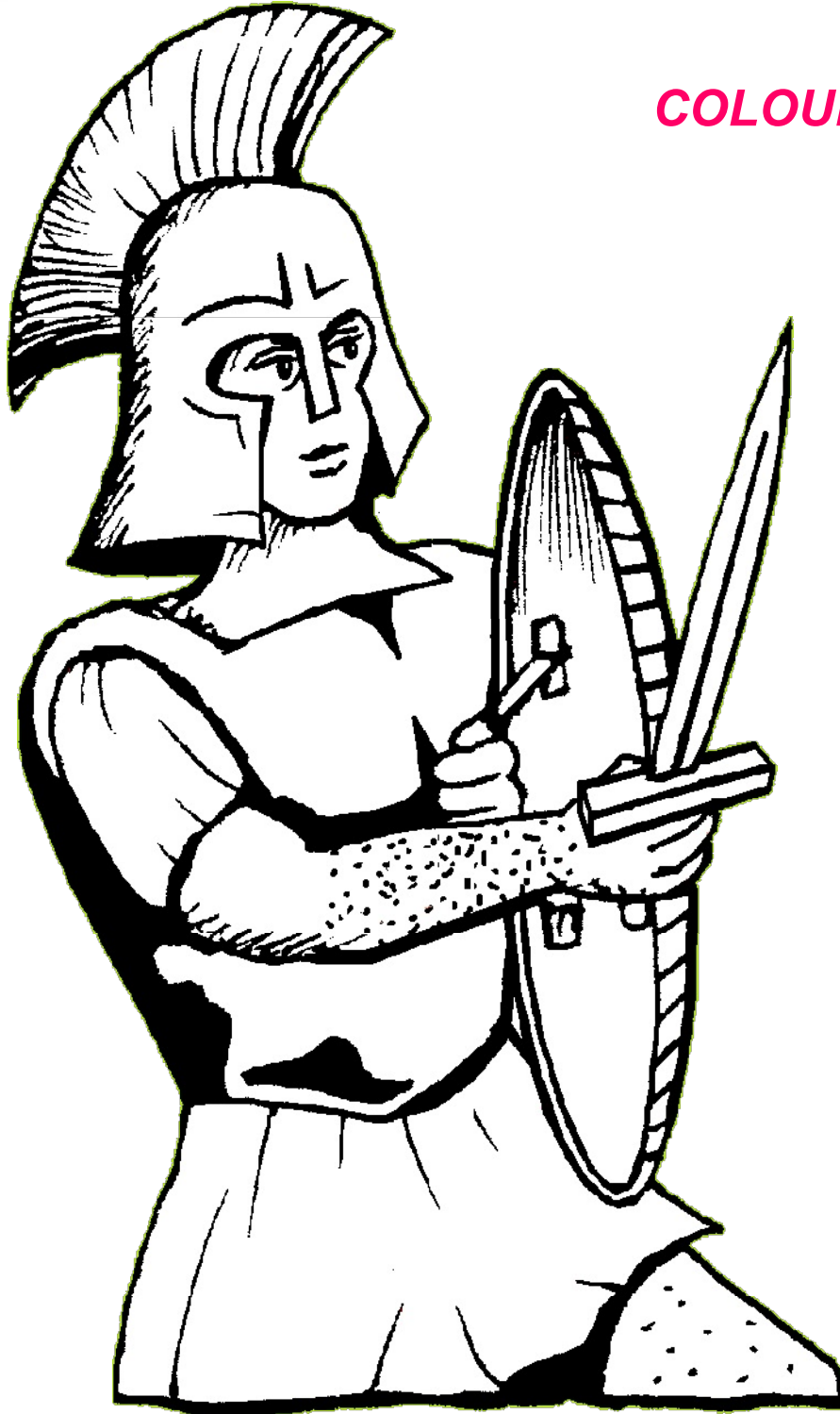


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