

Theseus and Minotaur

King Minos of Crete had long hated the people of Athens, for they had killed his son when he took all the prizes at the Athenian games. To prevent King Minos from waging war against them, every nine years, the Athenians sent seven youths and maidens to be sacrificed to the Minotaur- half-man, half-bull- which lived in the Labyrinth on Crete.

Theseus, son of King Aegeus, was angered by this cruelty. Bravely, he offered to join the next victims and try to kill the Minotaur. His father begged him not to go with the others, but Theseus insisted, and prepared to sail for Crete. He hoisted a black sail as a sign of respect for the victims, but promised to return with a white sail raised, as a sign of his success. Great storms battered the little ship on its journey to Crete. When Theseus finally landed, he found King Minos waiting, with his daughter Ariadne. Ariadne immediately fell madly in love with Theseus, and she resolved to save him from the Minotaur and marry him.

That night, Ariadne crept softly past the guards. She gave Theseus a sword and a ball of magic thread to guide him out of the maze. Next day, the Athenians were thrown into the Labyrinth. Once inside, Theseus tied one end of the thread to the door and set off in search of the Minotaur.

The Labyrinth was a confusing maze of cold, dark passages. Some led nowhere. Others took him deeper into the maze. The roar of the Minotaur grew louder. Suddenly, Theseus came face to face with the hideous monster.


The struggle was long and fierce, for the Minotaur was enormously strong. But Theseus eventually drove his sword through its heart and it sank to the ground- dead.



Following the thread, Theseus traced his path back to the entrance of the Labyrinth. Hearing the cheers of Theseus' friends, Ariadne quickly unlocked the door. Then everyone ran for the ship and set sail for Athens.


After a few days, they stopped at an island, where Ariadne fell asleep. Theseus, unwilling to marry his enemy's daughter, left her sleeping on the sand. In all the excitement, Theseus forgot to change his sail from black to white.

Meanwhile, his father King Aegeus, watched anxiously for his ship. Sighting the black sail and thinking the worst, he cast himself on to the rocks below. As Athenian parents celebrate their children's return, Theseus mourned the death of his father. So the sad, but heroic Theseus became King of Athens and lived to win many more victories.

Steps to Success

Lockdown work	
Date	Thursday 21 st January
Subject/s	ERIC
Learning Objective 	To understand a text.

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Success Criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can retrieve key ideas from a text. I can interpret ideas from a text. I can explain the meanings of vocabulary in a text. 		
Support	Independent () Support	Group Work	

Explain:



1. Look at the words below and find their definition. You could use a dictionary or look the word up online. Remember to write down a definition that you understand.

- a) Maidens- _____
- b) Sacrificed- _____
- c) Hoisted- _____
- d) Cast - _____
- e) Mourned- _____
- f) Anxiously- _____

Retrieve



- 2. Where was King Minos from?
- 3. Why did King Minos hate people of Athens?
- 4. Who was Theseus?
- 5. What did Ariadne give to Theseus?
- 6. Find and copy the whole sentence that includes the word 'eventually'.
- 7. How was the Minotaur described?
- 8. Why did Theseus leave Ariadne on the island?

Interpret



- 9. What does 'he cast himself onto the rocks below' mean?
- 10. Why was Theseus angered by the cruelty of King Minos?
- 11. Think of 3 words that you could use to describe the Labyrinth.
- 12. Was it easy to defeat the Minotaur? Explain how you know.

