

Theseus and the Minotaur

- Zeus, in the form of a bull, carried off a mortal woman - Europa - to Crete and fathered Minos there.
- Minos asked Poseidon for help to become King over his siblings, and asked Poseidon to send a snow-white bull in a show of support of his kingship.
- Poseidon expected Minos to kill the bull as a sacrifice to Poseidon
- Minos couldn't kill the bull (because he thinks it is too pretty).
- Poseidon was not happy and in an act of revenge, makes Pasiphae (Minos' wife) fall in love with the bull.
- Pasiphae ordered a craftsman, Daedalus, to make her a wooden cow in order to copulate with the bull.
- She gave birth to the Minotaur - a half-bull, half-man creature - that Minos ordered to be imprisoned in the labyrinth built by Daedalus, and who fed on human flesh.
- The Athenians were not happy with Minos, so Minos waged war on Greece, during which the Athenians murdered his son, Androgeos.
- In vengeance, Minos demanded a regular tribute from Athens of young boys and girls to feed to the Minotaur.
- One of the youths sent to Crete was Theseus, the son of Aegeus, the King of Athens.
- Theseus volunteered to kill the Minotaur.
- Aegeus, reluctant to let his son sail off with the other victims under a black sail (death), made him promise to hoist a white sail on his return to indicate he had killed the minotaur.
- On arriving in Crete, Theseus met Ariadne, Minos' daughter, who fell in love with him.
- She gave him a dagger and a ball of string to unroll the further he went into the maze in search of the Minotaur.
- He killed the Minotaur and he and Ariadne escaped Crete, but Theseus forgot to hoist the white sail, and his father waiting for his return saw the black sail and believed his son was dead.
- Aegeus threw himself into the sea that bears his name.