

(15 points)

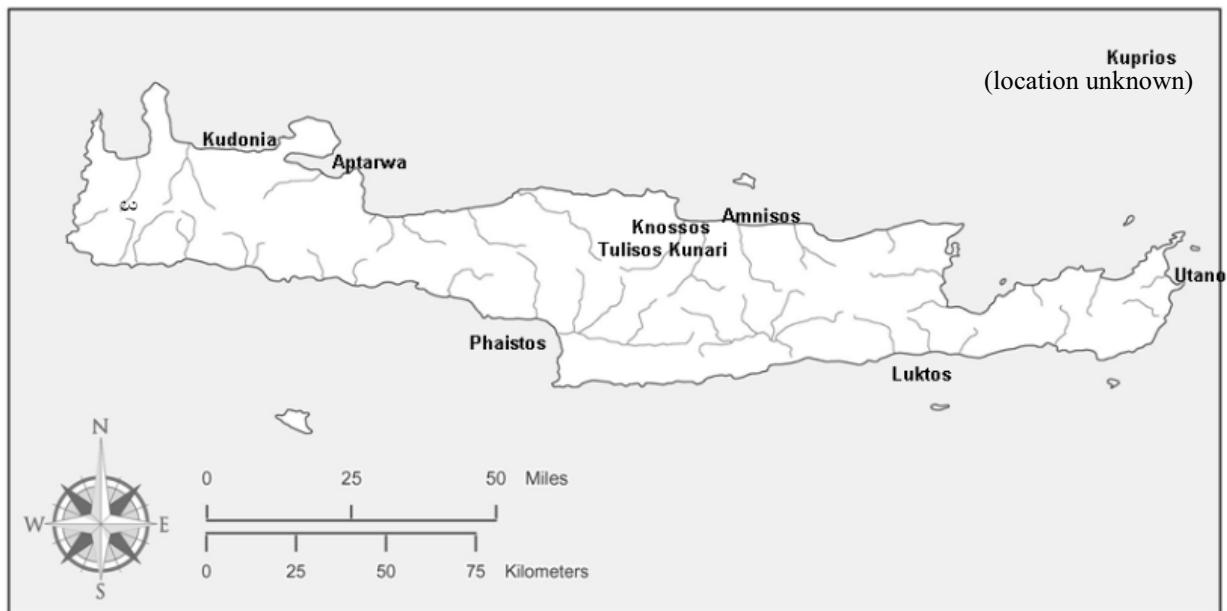
(H) Linear Combinations (1/3)

The script Linear B, deciphered by the architect and amateur epigrapher Michael Ventris in 1953, was used to write Mycenaean Greek around the 15th century BCE. Linear B tablets, all of which were accounting records, have been found both on Crete and at various Mycenaean sites on the Greek mainland.

Linear B isn't perfectly suited for Greek; it is an adaptation of another script (Linear A) that was used to write a language about which very little is known. Linear A/B didn't distinguish /l/ and /r/, nor did it have a way to distinguish similar triples of sounds like /ba/, /pa/, and /p^ha/ (which were distinct sounds in Greek), and apparently could only write sequences of V or CV syllables so that a syllable in a Greek word like *k^hru-sos* 'gold' had to be broken up as something like *ku-ru-so*. Here V stands for vowel and C stands for consonant. The superscript ^h is used to indicate aspiration.

You will now be asked to decipher a portion of the Linear B symbol set.

The map below shows the approximate locations of a number of ancient Cretan towns: the spellings reflect their probable pronunciation in Mycenaean Greek (not their pronunciation in Modern Greek). Note that we do not know the location of *Kuprios*; also, *Tulisos* and *Kunari* are two different places. Most of these names have stayed more or less the same up until the present day. However one of the names on the map (a "distractor") is not the name that was used in Mycenaean times.



Map by Tom Elliott. Copyright 2003, Ancient World Mapping Center

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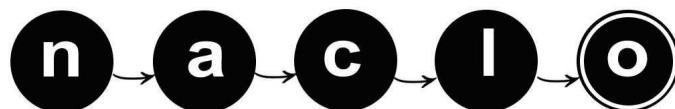


(H) Linear Combinations (2/3)

H1. Given the spellings of these names in Linear B, can you figure out which is which?

𐁂 𐄃, 𐁇	_____
𐁄 𐁅 𐄃 𐁇	_____
𐁆 𐄃 𐁍	_____
𐁄 𐄃 𐁇	_____
𐁈 𐁅 𐄃 𐁇	_____
𐁄 𐁆 𐄃 𐁇	_____
𐁄 𐄃 𐁍 𐁇	_____
𐁄 𐁆 𐄃	_____
𐁄 𐁅 𐄃 𐁇	_____
𐁄 𐁅 𐄃 𐁇	_____

H2. Identify the distractor mentioned on the previous page. What was the approximate Mycenaean pronunciation, given the Linear B spelling? Since one of the symbols used there only occurs in that name in this set, we will even give you a hint: that symbol represents *ja* (pronounced *ya*). Note that if you solve all the others, you will be able to read this name.



(H) Linear Combinations (3/3)

H3. Write the most likely pronunciation of each Linear B symbol at right.

𐀁	
𐀃	
𐀄	
𐀅	
𐀆	
𐀇	
𐀈	
𐀉	
𐀊	
𐀋	
𐀌	
𐀍	
𐀎	
𐀏	
𐀐	
𐀑	
𐀒	
𐀓	
𐀔	
𐀕	
𐀖	
𐀗	
𐀘	
𐀙	
𐀚	
𐀛	
𐀜	
𐀝	
𐀞	

H4. What are the probable pronunciations of the following words:

𐀁 𐀃	'girl'	_____
𐀏 𐀓	'all'	_____
𐀁 𐀗	'this'	_____
𐀋 𐀌 𐀔	'cumin'	_____
𐀋 𐀔	'linen'	_____

