

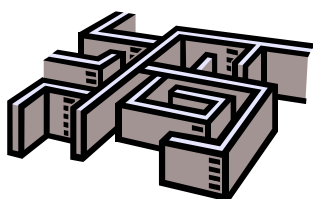
Theseus and the Minotaur

King Minos of Crete was indeed a bad man. He kept a monster called a Minotaur at his palace, which he fed with humans too! This monster was half bull and half man. It had frightful red eyes.



Every year the King of Athens was forced to send seven men and seven women to the palace of King Minos. The evil King would then feed the men and women to his monster. The people of Athens were all very unhappy and they called on Theseus, the King's son, to kill the Minotaur.

Theseus set sail in his ship. The King of Athens had told him to take with him a white sail and to hang this from the mast if he succeeded in killing the beast.



When Theseus arrived in Crete, King Minos and his soldiers captured him and took his sword from him. Theseus was pushed into a labyrinth and could not find his way out. Theseus knew that the Minotaur was in the maze too!

Just then, he saw a beautiful young girl. She was the kind daughter of King Minos. Her name was Ariadne. She wanted to help Theseus to escape. Ariadne did not agree with the cruel deeds of her father. Ariadne gave Theseus a ball of wool and a sword. She told him that she would take one end of the wool and hold on to it. Theseus was to go into the maze but would be able to find his way out by winding up the wool. The sword, she said, was to kill the Minotaur with.

In the centre of the maze, Theseus came face to face with the Minotaur and he was very afraid. He thought about his father and about the seven men and women that the Minotaur was about to eat. This made him very angry and he drove his sword into the beast with all his strength. The Minotaur was dead at last! Theseus remembered the ball of wool and wound it up to find his way out of the maze.



On his return to Athens, he was so happy that he had killed the monster that he forgot about the white sail. He was supposed to put it on the ship to show his father that he had completed the task and that he was alive and well. When the King of Athens saw Theseus' ship arriving home with a black sail, he was heartbroken – believing his son was dead he threw himself into the sea never to be seen again.



Theseus was told the news about his father and he was very sorry. Now he was to be the new King, Theseus vowed to his people that never again would he be foolish.

Theseus and the Minotaur

Name: Date:

Read the story and then use the text to complete the table.



	Theseus	Ariadne
Who is the hero in the story? Find evidence for each character.		
	King Minos	Minotaur
Who is the villain in the story? Find evidence for each character.		

**Design a maze of your own. Draw the Minotaur in the maze.
Challenge a friend to find their way out of the maze!**

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick orange border, intended for the student to draw their own maze and place the Minotaur inside it.