

# THE MINOTAUR

## The Beast of the Labyrinth

The Minotaur is a creature from Greek mythology. He has the body of a man and the head of a bull.

In one famous version, he was born when King Minos's wife Pasiphaë fell in love with a magnificent bull that had been sent by Poseidon.

He lived in a huge and complex maze called the Labyrinth on the island of Crete.

At regular intervals, Athens was forced to send seven young men and seven young women to Crete as a terrible tribute. Some ancient stories say this happened **every nine years**.

Theseus, a brave Athenian hero, went to Crete to defeat the Minotaur and end the terrible tribute forever.



### DID YOU KNOW?



The Minotaur was born when King Minos's wife Pasiphaë fell in love with a bull sent by Poseidon.



Theseus did not know his way out of the Labyrinth. Ariadne, Minos's daughter, gave him a ball of thread to help him find his way back out after he defeated the Minotaur.



King Minos ruled Crete and ordered Daedalus, the great inventor and craftsman, to build the Labyrinth to contain the Minotaur.

### KEY FACTS

#### WHO?



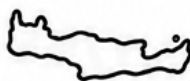
The Minotaur  
A monster with the body of a man and the head of a bull.

#### WHAT?



A fearsome creature who lived in the Labyrinth and ate those sent as a tribute.

#### WHERE?



He lived in the Labyrinth on the island of Crete.

#### WHY?



Athens was forced to send the tribute to Crete after a conflict with King Minos following the death of his son Androgeus.

#### WHO DEFEATED HIM?



Theseus, the brave hero of Athens.

Bravery, cleverness and Ariadne's help allowed Theseus to defeat the Minotaur and escape from the Labyrinth.