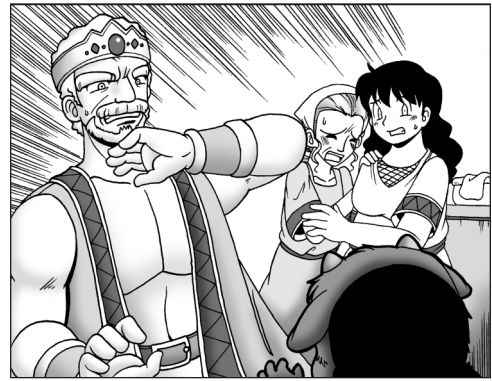


# 2

## Chapter Two: *The Children of Minos*



### **Vocabulary**

archaeologists  
crude  
reign  
enchanted  
tended  
sensible  
doomed  
hostages

### **Facts and Details: Literal Meaning**

1. How long ago does this story take place?
2. How does King Minos cheat Poseidon?
3. Who does Minos call upon to build the Labyrinth?
4. How many times a year does the ship carrying 14 hostages arrive from Athens?
5. Who is responsible for the death of King Minos' first-born son?

### **What's Going On?: Reading Comprehension**

1. How are the Greek people characterized in this chapter?
2. Why are the Minoan people welcomed in many places?
3. How is King Minos responsible for his own unhappiness?
4. What is the significance of Ariadne's aspirations to one day become a captain in her father's fleet?
5. Why does a special ship arrive from Athens yearly? How might the hostages have felt?

### **In your own words...**

Ariadne wanted to one day grow up and be a captain in her father's merchant fleet. What do you want to be when you get older? Why?

Ariadne's opportunity to become whatever she wants differs from that of Greek women of the time period. What is this an example of?  
Give an example of how this still happens today.

## **Background and Additional Information**

*The designer of the Labyrinth, Dedalus, has his own place in ancient lore. Imprisoned by Minos in the Labyrinth, Dedalus plans an escape by fashioning wings of bees wax and bird's feathers for himself and his son, Icarus. They succeed in becoming airborne, but Icarus, thrilled by flight, ignores his father's warning and flies too close to the sun, melting the wax. He falls into the sea and is killed. The grieving father flies on to freedom, but is pursued by Minos and must live a hidden life. Minos finally offers a reward for whoever can devise a means to pass a string through a spiral seashell. One person solves the problem by fastening a hair from a horse's tail to an ant, who then pulls it through the shell. The string is then attached to the hair and gently tugged through.*

*But, as in so many Greek tales, pride has proven fatal! Minos knows only one man could have come up with such a brilliant solution. Dedalus has betrayed himself and is captured!*

## **Multidisciplinary Connections**

(Art)

Study ancient tapestries and weavings.

(Math)

Calculate the number of hostages brought to Crete over a period of time.

(Social Studies)

Study archaeology -- Sir Arthur Evans and the Minoan Palace. Map the locations of Athens.

## **Newspaper Activity**

This chapter demonstrates the relationship between cause and effect. For example, one cause is King Minos' decision to cheat Poseidon, the effect of which is the birth of the Minotaur. Find other examples of cause/effect relationships in today's newspaper and discuss.

## **Skill Builder**

**Read the chapter and take notes. Develop an outline for literary elements: plot, setting, characters and theme.**

## **AUTHOR'S NOTES**

*Now that readers are interested in the story, we can back up and talk about Minoan culture and what is going on in this story. We also introduce the story's central moral issue: The sacrifice of 14 young Greeks each year to avenge the death of the King's son.*

*Rina's done a wonderful job here of showing Minos as a hard man: He is horrified at the birth of the Minotaur, but doesn't look sorry for his actions, nor does he seem to pity the beast. This reaction does not really inspire any sympathy.*

## **Chapter 2: Answer Key**

### **Facts and Details**

1. 4,000 years ago
2. King Minos gave Poseidon an ordinary bull and kept the great bull.
3. Dedalus
4. Once
5. Athenians

### **Reading Comprehension**

1. Rough creatures who lived in crude homes

2. They were great merchants.
3. His deception caused Poseidon's anger and the birth of the Minotaur.
4. It reveals that she wants to please her father and it demonstrates that Minoan women were allowed to pursue occupations mostly held by men. This is unlike other cultures in which women were not treated equally.
5. The ship brings 14 Athenians to be sacrificed to the Minotaur. The hostages were most likely anxious and terrified.