

## Icarus' Flight

Ancient Greek

Icarus and his father, Daedalus, were imprisoned in the Labyrinth which Daedalus had built for King Minos to imprison the Minotaur, because King Minos had become angry with Daedalus.

Icarus hated being imprisoned. He grew thinner and lost his love of life until, one day, Daedalus saw an eagle fly over the palace, which gave him an idea of how they could both escape.

Daedalus was an extremely clever designer, and he set to work to design and make two pairs of wings. The wings were made from wooden frames with birds' feathers attached to them, and had leather straps on the back with which they could be attached to Daedalus and his son's arms. Unfortunately, Daedalus chose to use wax to attach the feathers to the wood, which was a terrible mistake.

Once the wings were finished, Daedalus and Icarus crept past the guards and up onto the roof of the palace, to begin their flight to safety. Before they took off, Daedalus warned Icarus not to fly too high.

Unfortunately, Icarus did not heed his father's warning and delighted so much in the sensation of flying that he rose higher and higher into the sky. As he flew closer to the sun, the wax began to melt and, one by one, the feathers fell off.

Icarus did not notice, until finally there were not enough feathers left on the wings to keep him in the air, and he plunged to his death in the sea below.

1. What was the Labyrinth and why was Icarus not happy there?


2. What gave Daedalus an idea, and what was the idea?


3. What was the mistake Daedalus made in his design, and what could he have done instead?


4. Why do you think they went to the roof of the palace to begin their journey?


5. What do you think Daedalus felt and wished when he saw what his son was doing?
